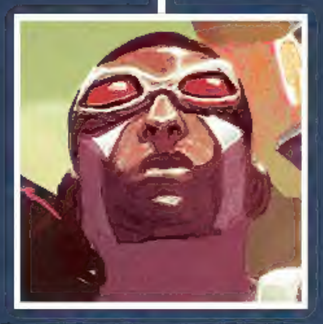
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

THE AVENGERS

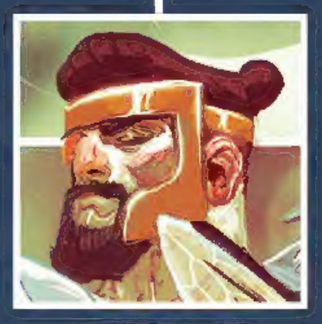
WAID
DEL MUNDO
D'ALFONSO

KANG WAR ONE

MARVEL

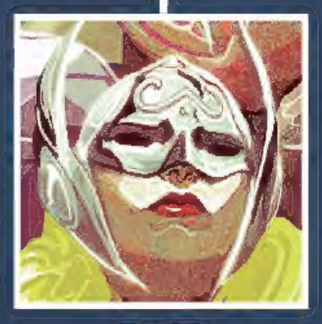


CAPTAIN AMERICA
Sam Wilson



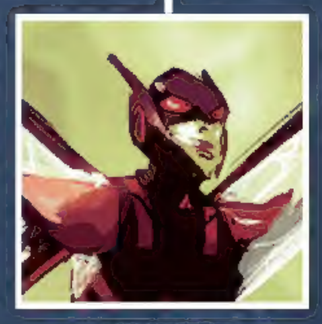
HERCULES

SPIDER-MAN
Peter Parker



THOR
Jane Foster

VISION



WASP
Nadia Pym

THE AVENGERS

[Kang War One]

WRITER Mark Waid

ARTIST Mike del Mundo

COLOR ARTISTS Mike del Mundo
with Marco D'Alfonso

LETTERER VC's Cory Petit

COVER ART Alex Ross

ASSISTANT EDITOR Alanna Smith

EDITOR Tom Brevoort

AVENGERS CREATED BY
STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

COLLECTION EDITOR JENNIFER GRÜNWALD
ASSISTANT EDITOR CAITLIN O'CONNELL
ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR KATERI WOODY
EDITOR, SPECIAL PROJECTS MARK D. BEAZLEY
VP PRODUCTION & SPECIAL PROJECTS JEFF YOUNGQUIST
SVP PRINT, SALES & MARKETING DAVID GABRIEL
BOOK DESIGNER JAY BOWEN

DIGITAL MANAGER/PRODUCTION TIM SMITH 3
DIGITAL PRODUCTION KOU CHEN & RACHEL YOUNG

EDITOR IN CHIEF AXEL ALONSO
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER JOE QUESADA
PRESIDENT DAN BUCKLEY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ALAN FINE

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EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

THE AVENGERS®

#1 NOW

#1 MARVEL

MARK WAID
MIKE DEL MUNDO

HAVE AT THEE!

CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK.

GODS, DEMIGODS, OR MORTALS...

...YOU'LL ALL TASTE THE SAME TO ME.

THOR

WASP

CAPTAIN AMERICA

I OFTEN *WORRIED* THAT THE FROST-WOLF *HOARFEN* MIGHT SOMEDAY FIND HIS WAY TO *EARTH* FROM THE *NETHER-REALMS.*

HIS JOURNEY SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN MUCH *OUT* OF HIM, BUT HE REMAINS IMPERVIOUS TO THE MIGHT OF *MJOLNIR.*

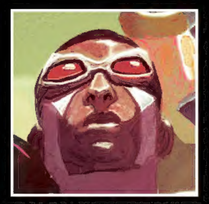
DISAPPOINTING.

HERCULES

THE AVENGERS

WASP
Nadia Pym

THOR
Jane Foster



CAPTAIN AMERICA
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VISION

SPIDER-MAN
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HERCULES

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Variant Covers	**Adam Kubert & Sonia Oback; John Tyler Christopher; Alex Maleev; Butch Guice & Rachelle Rosenberg; Daniel Acuña**
Assistant Editor	**Alanna Smith**
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I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ***PYM PARTICLES*** TO SHRINK HIM DOWN TO ***CHIHUAHUA*** SIZE! TELL ME YOU HAVE A ***PLAN!***

IF ***VISION*** WERE HERE, HE COULD PHASE ***INSIDE*** THIS MONSTER AND DO SOME DAMAGE THERE!

I'M SMALL! ***I*** COULD--

NO! SINCE WE'VE GOT ONE OF THE STRONGEST MEN ***ALIVE*** WITH US, WE'RE GONNA TRY SOMETHING NEW!

HERCULES! CATCH!

HOLD IT ***HIGH*** AND ***DO NOT LET GO!***

AYE, CAPTAIN!

SPINNING

NYAAARRGHH-*

POKE.

POKE, POKE, POKE.

YEP, HE'S *OUT*, GUYS.

WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT *THIS* MAN.

PARDON...?

HERCULES, I HAVE AN *OFFER* FOR YOU. YOU USED TO BE AN AVENGER, AND WITH *IRON MAN* IN ROUGH SHAPE AND *NOVA, SPIDEY* AND *MS. MARVEL* OFF THE TABLE*, WE COULD *USE* SOME FRESH BLOOD. *JOIN* US?

*SEE *CHAMPIONS #1!* --TOM

IT WOULD BE MY *HONOR*, CAPTAIN.

I HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO, AS THEY SAY IN THIS AGE, "REFORM MY IMAGE"-- THUS, I APPRECIATE THE *OPPORTUNITY.*

COOL! HE CAN COME *WITH* US TO THE...*THING* WE WERE INVITED TO.

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE, THEN!

FIRST WE MUST REMOVE THE FROST-WOLF TO HIS *NATIVE REALM*, BUT FEAR *NOT*. WE WILL *MEET* YOU--

"--AT THE DESIGNATED *TIME* AND *PLACE*."

PARKER INDUSTRIES, NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS. THE BAXTER BUILDING.

HUH.

WELL, IT'S NOT AN ***AMBUSH.***

I WAS IN THE MOOD FOR AN AMBUSH.

YOU GUYS KNOW WHO ***OWNS*** THIS BUILDING, RIGHT?

ME.

HI. MY NAME IS ***PETER PARKER,*** VERY LUCKY ***TECH*** GAZILLIONAIRE WHO CRAWLED HIS WAY LIKE A...

...***SNAIL***... LET'S SAY ***SNAIL***... FROM PHOTOJOURNALISM TO ***HERE***--TO A POSITION WHERE I CAN GIVE ***BACK*** BETTER THAN I ***GOT.***

AND DO ***I*** HAVE AN OFFER FOR ***YOU.***

MS. BEACHUM, GIVE THESE FOLKS A PLACE TO ***SIT DOWN*** AND BE ***COMFORTABLE.***

YOU BET, BOSS. ONE ***RISING TABLE,*** LITERALLY COMING ***UP.***

KLIK

OOOH.

NOW, TO ***BUSINESS.***

SPECIFICALLY, HOW ***PARKER INDUSTRIES*** WOULD BE ***HONORED*** TO ***FUND*** THE AVENGERS.

UMMM...

...NOT...TO BE ***PRESUMPTUOUS,*** OR ANYTHING...BUT I IMAGINE THAT WITHOUT TONY STARK'S ***CHECKBOOK,*** AVENGING CAN BE... ***COSTLY,*** SO I THOUGHT...

QUINJET?

YES! C'MON! LEMME SHOW YOU THE ***AIRCRAFT*** WE BUILT YOU!

TA-DA!

TA- ***WHAT?***

OOPS. MS. BEACHUM?

DEET

TOTAL STEALTH CAPABILITY. WHISPER-QUIET MODE, UNDETECTABLE BY SONAR, RADAR OR LASER.

TA-DA.

UPSTAIRS, STATE-OF-THE-ART COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES. SPACE FOR AN ***ARSENAL***, EVEN A ***TROPHY ROOM*** IF YOU LIKE.

ALL ***YOURS***-- AND PLENTY ***BESIDES***. FEEL FREE TO USE THESE TOP FIVE FLOORS AS YOUR ***HEADQUARTERS***, YOUR ***LIVING SPACE--WHATEVER***. MI PARKER ES ***SU*** PARKER.

THIS YOUNG WOMAN IS ***MS. BEACHUM***. SHE'LL BE YOUR FULL-TIME ***ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT***.

HEY! WE ALREADY ***HAVE*** ONE OF THOSE, AND WE ***LIKE*** HIM! YOU ***CANNOT*** REPLACE ***JARVIS!***

WASN'T ***TRYING*** TO! FAMILY IS ***FAMILY***, RIGHT?

"WHERE ***IS*** HE, ANYWAY?"

AVENGERS HANGER, NEW JERSEY.

"WE'LL BE BACK ***SOON***, JARVIS."

"WE'RE ***SORRY*** MR. STARK LOST THE DEED TO OUR ***HEADQUARTERS***, JARVIS."

"WE'LL HELP YOU CLOSE THIS OLD DUMP ***UP***, JARVIS, WE ***PROMISE***."

=SIGH=

WE PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE CALLED HIM BY NOW, DON'T YOU THINK?

AYE.

NOW I REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE! YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH THAT AWFUL ***SPIDER-MAN!***

OH, YEAH. WASPS AND SPIDERS, NATURAL ENEMIES, I FORGOT...

SPIDER-MAN... ***WORKS*** FOR ME AS A ***BODYGUARD***. AND I HAVE TO TELL YOU, THIS WAS ALL ***HIS*** IDEA!

HE FEELS REALLY BAD ABOUT WHERE HE CAME DOWN IN THIS WHOLE ***CIVIL WAR*** NONSENSE AND HOW IT'S TORN A LOT OF THE HERO COMMUNITY ***APART***.

HE SUGGESTED ***THIS*** AS A WAY OF MAYBE ACCELERATING THE ***HEALING*** PROCESS A LITTLE.

MENTION THE ***VIEW***.

OH, PLEASE...

RED WING

RIGHT! A 360-DEGREE VIEW OF NEW YORK THROUGH ***ADAMANTIUM-LACED GLASS!***

ANY TROUBLE ON THE ***HORIZON***, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SPOT IT ***INSTANTLY!***

FOR EXAMPLE:

LET'S *GO*, PEOPLE!

WE'LL BE IN *TOUCH*, PARKER!

OH, *MY*.

BEACHUM! I JUST REALIZED I NEED THOSE...THOSE P&L STATEMENTS FOR THE *BOARD* ON... FRIDAY!

THEY'RE ON MY *DESK!*

CAN YOU GO PRINT UP, SAY, *FOUR DOZEN COPIES?*

BOUND AND *COLLATED?* RIGHT *NOW?*

I...SURE, MR. PARKER. IS THERE A *RUSH?*

"KINDA!"

WHERE IS HE, VISION?
WHERE IS THE CHILD?

THAT IS NOT INFORMATION I CHOOSE TO **DISCLOSE**, KANG!

SWORN WITH **SPIRIT**. FOR THE MOMENT, YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH TO STAY **TACITURN**.

YOU **DRAW** YOUR STRENGTH FROM THE RAYS OF THE **SUN**, I BELIEVE...?

HOW LONG CAN YOU RESIST ME ONCE I TRANSPORT YOU TO AN EON BEFORE THE STARS WERE EVEN **BORN?**

I--

--IAAGGHH!

--IAAGGHH!

SP-TANG

THOOM

LOOK AT THAT. *TWO* TARGETS--

--*KANG* AND THE *SCARLET CENTURION*--FROM THE *LOOKS* OF IT, *NEITHER* OF THEM IN PEAK CONDITION!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE *MOMENT!* HIT 'EM *HARD!*

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

WHY *ARE* THERE TWO? THEY ARE TIME-TRAVELERS! IS NOT *ONE* A FUTURE VERSION OF THE *OTHER?*

I DON'T *CARE* RIGHT NOW.

I HAVE A MORE *PRESSING* QUESTION:

VISION, HE--*THEY*-- TARGETED *YOU?* *WHY?*

?

WE WILL DISCUSS IT LATER.

FOOL! I AM NOT THE ENEMY--

--HE IS!

TO YOU, MAYBE! WHICH IS GOOD NEWS!

I CAN'T SEE THE FUTURE LIKE YOU CAN, BUT I PREDICT WE'RE GONNA NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET!

WOW

UGH. WHO INVITED HIM?

LIKE I EXPECT A BIRD TO ANSWER ME.

VISION, SERIOUSLY, WHAT'S GOING ON?

KANG SIMPLY APPEARED. HE COULD HAVE MANIFESTED ANYWHERE, AT ANY TIME--FROM LAST WEEK--

--TO ONE SECOND AGO!

HNNNGH!

YOU THINK ME **WEAK**, DO YOU?

I AM **KANG THE CONQUEROR**, AND WITH THE SLIGHTEST **TOUCH**--

--I CAN FEED ON THE FUTURE OF **ANYTHING**, ACCELERATING IT TO **DUST!**

THOSE **INSIDE** THE BUILDING--

--**GRAB THEM!**

YOU AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE, SYNTHEZOID.

LAST CHANCE. WHERE IS THE CHILD?

THREATEN ME ALL YOU WISH. I WILL NOT DIVULGE HIS LOCATION!

THEN I WILL TAKE IT FROM YOU!

EXTRACTION... MAY NOT WORK ON HIM.

I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY *NOT.*

THIS WILL TRANSFER THE DATA IN HIS SYNTHEZOID BRAIN INTO MY *RECEPTORS.*

THEN WE WILL KNOW *ALL* VISION'S SECRETS.

NO, WE *WON'T.* YOU ARE MY *PAST SELF,* AND WHILE OUR ENCOUNTER IS CURIOUSLY *NEW* TO ME, I WAS SUDDENLY OVERCOME WITH A *RECOLLECTION.* THE VISION SAYS TO YOU--

--THE =KZZT= MEMORY OF -THE-E-E-E-E CH-CHILD'S *LOLOLOCATION* IS NOT WITHHHHIN ME-E-E--

--I OFF-F-F-LOADED IT.

THEN WE'RE WASTING VALUABLE *TIME* HERE.

LET US *REGROUP..*

VISION!

KANG AND THE CENTURION HAVE *VANISHED.* WE SEEM IN NO IMMEDIATE *DANGER.*

BUT *VISION*-- IS HE--?

I AM-AM-AM CAAAAPABLE OF *H-HEALING*--

THEN LET'S GET HIM BACK TO THE *PARKER* BUILDING!

"THERE'S A FULLY FUNCTIONAL *MED-BAY* THERE!"

THIS IS CUTTING-EDGE EQUIPMENT. PARKER REALLY IS COUNTING ON THE AVENGERS TAKING HIM UP ON HIS OFFER, ISN'T HE?

I GUESS. THAT PARKER'S FULL OF SURPRISES.

NADIA, HOW'S OUR PATIENT DOING?

I'LL GET A CLOSE-UP LOOK.

WELL, I LIKE *HER.*

YOU ARE THE ONLY MORTAL I'VE YET SEEN WHO *IRKS* HER.

YOU REALIZE, I HOPE, THAT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO TAKE THAT *PERSONALLY*, RIGHT?

YOU ARE NOT DISLIKED BY *EVERYONE.*

FINALLY! THE EPITAPH I'VE BEEN *LOOKING* FOR!

NADIA, ANY DISCOVERIES?

I CAN HEAR YOU WITHOUT SHOUTING!

IT *IS* AN EAR, *YOU* KNOW!

RECONNECTED A FEW *RELAYS*, CLEANED OUT THE *SYNAPSES*...VISION, ARE YOU LESS *STUTTERY* NOW?

I AM IN PAIN, BUT THAT WILL PASS.

THEN WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT **KANG** AND HIS **FISSIONING** AND--

HE HAS DONE THAT BEFORE. RECENTLY.

"YOU WERE NOT WITH US, NADIA, BUT THE LAST TIME WE ENCOUNTERED KANG, IT WAS AN **ALTERNATE VERSION** OF HIM--

"--ONE WHO CLAIMED THAT, AS HE PUT IT, A 'FIREWALL OF TIME' WAS PREVENTING HIM FROM TRAVELING FORWARD FROM PRESENT DAY.

"KANG HAS MAINTAINED **SEVERAL** IDENTITIES OVER THE CENTURIES. THIS 'FIREWALL' APPARENTLY CREATES ITS OWN SET OF **TIME PARADOXES** OF WHICH WE'VE SEEN ONLY A **HINT.**

"APPARENTLY, HE NOW HAS THE POWER TO DOCTOR TIME LIKE A **SURGEON** WITHOUT LEAVING **SCARS.**"

SO THAT'S WHY MULTIPLE KANGS CAN COEXIST, ALL OF THEM OUT FOR... WHAT?

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A **MISSING CHILD?** WHY DID HE--**THEY**-- DECLARE WAR ON THE **AVENGERS?**

IT ISN'T A DECLARATION. IT'S A **RETALIATION.**

IT WAS **I** WHO DECLARED WAR ON **KANG.**

FOR YEARS NOW, KANG HAS BEEN **RELENTLESS** IN HIS ATTACKS. WHEN DEFEATED, HE CAN SIMPLY TRAVEL THROUGH SPACETIME TO **REJUVENATE**--

--THEN STRIKE AT US AGAIN AND **AGAIN.**

THE **LAST** TIME, HE TRANSFORMED ME INTO HIS **WEAPON,** ACTIVATING **ANGER** WITHIN ME. AFTERWARDS, IN RAGE, **I** ELECTED TO END **KANG** ONCE AND FOR **ALL**--

--BY TIME-TRAVELING **MYSELF** AND **KIDNAPPING** HIM AS AN **INFANT** SO THAT HE COULD NEVER RISE TO **VILLAINY.***

*AS SEEN IN ALL-NEW ALL-DIFFERENT AVENGERS #13. --TOM

YOU TRIED TO DAM THE TIMESTREAM.

ADMITTEDLY, A RISK.

YOU ABDUCTED A CHILD.

I **BELIEVED** I HAD DETERRED A **THREAT.**

"NONETHELESS, AS I WAS REMINDED BY A... FELLOW TRAVELER, KANG **TRAFFICS** IN PARADOXES.

"THEY ABOUND IN HIS PRESENCE. I AM GRAVELY **DISAPPOINTED** THAT MY GAMBIT APPARENTLY FAILED-- BUT I AM NOT **SURPRISED.**"

REALLY? BECAUSE IT SEEMS TO ME YOU'RE FULL OF SURPRISES! WERE YOU PLANNING ON TELLING US ALL THIS?

NO. SO LONG AS I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW, I WOULD BE THE ONLY TARGET.

THERE IS NO REASON THAT YOU OF ALL AVENGERS SHOULD BE THE CRAZIEST ONE IN THE ROOM.

SO WHERE IS THE BABY NOW?

I DO NOT KNOW.

AS I ADVISED THE CENTURION AFTER HE SHATTERED MY SKULL, I OFF-LOADED THAT DATA NOT LONG AGO.

"IT IS SAFELY IN STORAGE."

THERE IS A WAY TO FIND IT.

WE CANNOT TRAVEL INTO THE FUTURE--

--BUT WE CAN SEE THE MOMENT THE VISION SURRENDERED THE INFORMATION--

--BY FOLLOWING HIS LIFELINE BACKWARDS THROUGH HIS LAST FEW WEEKS.

WITNESSING AN EXISTENCE IN *REVERSE* IS ALWAYS SO *TELLING.*

I WAS NOT AWARE VISION WAS A *FAMILY* MAN.

IT'S IN THE HISTORICAL TEXTS.

YOU'LL *STUDY* THEM SOMEDAY.

THERE!

EVERYTHING WE COULD POSSIBLY WANT TO KNOW IS BEING DOWNLOADED INTO THAT *CRYSTAL SPHERE.*

AS WE LET TIME FLOW *FORWARD* ONCE MORE AND THE VISION LEAVES THE *ROOM--*

--IT'S OURS FOR THE *TAKING!*

SECRET WARS

...BUT ONLY *AFTER* VISITING A JUST *PUNISHMENT* ON THE *AVENGERS* FOR WHAT THEY TRIED TO DO TO *US.*

OF *COURSE.* WHAT A MAGNIFICENT *HIDING* PLACE FOR THE INFANT *US.*

A *TRUCE:* WE WILL RETRIEVE HIM *TOGETHER...*

BE *MERCILESS.*

AS *EVER.* BY *POOLING* OUR ENERGIES, WE CAN BE ANYWHERE--ANY*WHEN*--*SIMULTANEOUSLY.*

AND THAT WILL BE THEIR *DOWNFALL.*

"SAFELY IN *STORAGE*," HE SAYS.

HE STARTS A *WAR*, THEN HE BRINGS IT TO *US* WITHOUT *WARNING*. ALL WHILE SHORT ON *MEMBERS*. WE'RE DOWN TO *SIX*.

YOU, HERC, VISION, THOR, WASP...

HANG ON, ARE YOU INCLUDING *ME*? I MEAN, I'M FLATTERED...

I WAS COUNTING *REDWING*, ACTUALLY.

HE'S A *BIRD*. YOUR *PET* BIRD.

MY *PARTNER*. HE'S GOT A *HEALING FACTOR* AND *SONIC CANNONS*...AND, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IF I *CONCENTRATE*--

"--I CAN SEE THROUGH *HIS EYES*."

OH, PLEASE. *SONIC CANNONS*?

YEAH.

SO, ARE YOU AVENGER NUMBER *SEVEN*?

...I'LL GET BACK TO YOU...

I HAVE SOME *FRIENDS* WHO MAY HELP US FORESTALL ANY FURTHER *ATTACKS.* I SHALL RETURN *SOON.*

GODSPEED.

DEMIGOD SPEED.

WHATEVER.

HNN.

EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?

JUST A...A WEIRD *SHUDDER.* LIKE A RABBIT RAN OVER MY GRAVE.

RICHARD AND MARY PARKER, THIS IS YOUR FINEST ACCOMPLISHMENT *YET!* WHAT DID YOU DECIDE TO NAME HIM?

WE THOUGHT *"PETER."*

WHAT DO *RABBITS* HAVE TO DO WITH *CHILLS?*

IT'S WHAT WE *MIDGARDIANS* SAY, THOR. IT MEANS AN UNEASY FEELING OF *MORTALITY.*

"YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND."

FOSTER, JANE.

NO! DON'T TAKE MY LITTLE NADIA! I BEG YOU!

RISE, MY SYNTHEZOID! YOU WILL BE ULTRON'S GREATEST CREATION!

DON'T WORRY.

"IT'S JUST AN EXPRESSION."

FOSTER. JANE

NEXT:
THE WAR TO END ALL TIME!

COMING THIS YEAR IN AVENGERS

NEXT

Got feedback? Send letters to MHEROES@MARVEL.COM marked "Okay to Print"!

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

THE AVENGERS

MARK WAID • MIKE DEL MUNDO

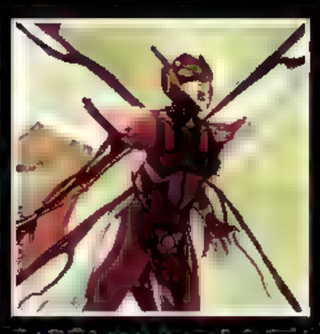
MARVEL

#2

THIS IS...
...
...UNSETTLING.

And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat. On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

THE AVENGERS 7



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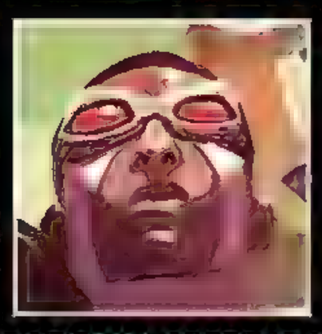
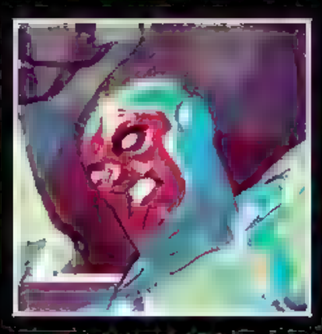


CAPTAIN AMERICA
Sam Wilson



VISION

SPIDER-MAN
Peter Parker

HERCULES

The Vision traveled through time to abduct the infamous villain Kang as a baby, hoping that Kang would never grow up to terrorize Vision and his fellow Avengers. But the resulting paradox created dozens of Kangs, all out for blood--and two of them decided to use Vision's own strategy against him, traveling back in the timestream and killing the Avengers as children!

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WHERE *ARE* WE?

WE'RE NOT...*DEAD*, ARE WE?

I HAVE *DRAKE* TICKETS FOR THE 23RD.

WE HAD *REALLY BETTER NOT* BE *DEAD.*

WE **LIVE.** WE WERE TRANSPORTED ELSEWHERE, **ABRUPTLY.**

"ELSEWHERE," VISION?

I BELIEVE I **RECOGNIZE** THIS ENVIRONMENT FROM THE SEVERE **LACK** OF **SENSORY INPUT.**

IT APPEARS TO BE **LIMBO.** THOR'S **HAMMER** HAS OPENED A PORTAL TO THIS REALM MORE THAN **ONCE.**

THEN IT CAN **REMOVE** US AS **WELL.** STAND **BACK--**

STOP!

HNNGH!

SMASH

YOU CANNOT *LEAVE* HERE-- NOT IF YOU VALUE YOUR *LIVES!*

WHO--?

DON'T KNOW, DON'T CARE, AND DON'T LIKE BEING *THREATENED.* *STRIKE BACK!*

SNAP!

IT WASN'T A *THREAT,* CAPTAIN. I'M *SAVING* YOU. *HAVE* SAVED YOU. *WILL* SAVE YOU.

TIME-TRAVEL CONJUGATION IS *COMPLICATED.* SORRY.

YOU CAN BLAME YOUR CURRENT STATE ON THE *SCARLET CENTURION.*

IN CONCERT WITH KANG, MARCHING BACK THROUGH THE *DECADES*, HE MURDERED *EACH* OF YOU IN YOUR *CRIBS*.

I PULLED YOU INTO *LIMBO, OUTSIDE* THE TIMESTREAM, TO *SAFETY*--

--JUST AHEAD OF THE ROLLING TIMEWAVE OF *CONSEQUENCE* THAT WOULD HAVE WIPED YOU FROM *EXISTENCE*.

AND WHO ARE *YOU*?

A *FUTURE VERSION* OF KANG, JUST AS CENTURION IS HIS PAST SELF--ALL OF US UNABLE TO RETURN *HOME* TO THE *FUTURE, ANCHORED* HERE.

KANG-*PRIME* HAS BEEN FEEDING ON *TIME PARADOXES*--*DELIBERATELY* CREATING *IMPOSSIBLE CONTRADICTIONS* THAT THREATEN *REALITY*, IN HOPES OF SHATTERING THE TIMEBLOCK THAT *RESTRAINS* US.

EACH TIME HE FAILS, ANOTHER VERSION OF HIM *EMERGES*.

SO ARE YOU A *GOOD* WITCH OR A *BAD* WITCH?

SNAP!

I AM FROM A FUTURE IN WHICH KANG--IN WHICH *I* HAVE SEEN THE HORRORS OF A CONQUEROR'S *WAYS*.

I COME NOT AS AN *ENEMY* BUT AS AN *ALLY*. TOGETHER, WE MUST *PREVENT* KANG-PRIME AND HIS *ASPECTS* FROM *DESTROYING* THAT WHICH ANCHORS US TO THE NOW, OR *BILLIONS* OF *TOMORROWS* ARE FORFEIT--

*THAT "ANCHOR" BEING THE **INFANT KANG** I KIDNAPPED TO THIS CENTURY. WOULD THAT BE **CORRECT**?*

THE ONE YOU DON'T REMEMBER WHERE YOU *LEFT*? MY HEAD HURTS.

AT LEAST MY *CONCERT* TICKETS ARE SAFE.

OKAY, SO--SPEAKING OF PARADOXES--EVEN THOUGH KANG KILLED US AS BABIES, WE'RE NOT *DEAD*--

--SO LONG AS YOU REMAIN IN *LIMBO*.

BUT THE MOMENT YOU *EMERGE*, TIME WILL CATCH UP WITH YOU--AND YOU'LL VANISH *FOREVER*.

AT THIS INSTANT, YOUR ONLY HOPE OF *CHANGING YOUR FATE* LIES IN THE HANDS--

"--OF THE *LAST AVENGER STANDING!*"

SIR, THIS IS THE OFFICE OF THE *CHAIRPERSON*, NOT A *STARBUCKS*. YOU CAN'T JUST WALK *IN* AND EXPECT--

SHE'LL SEE ME. I'M AN OLD FRIEND.

"*SYBIL* AQUILA." *THAT'S* THE NAME YOU ADOPTED FOR *MODERN TIMES?*

HERCULES?

SIBYL. HOW GOES THE *ORACLE* BUSINESS?

SHH!

HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE TO *FIND* ME?

ROME'S GODS AND DEMIGODS WALK THE EARTH IN CONTEMPORARY FORM NOW, WHERE THEY CAN BE WORSHIPED IN *MODERN WAYS*.

BACK IN THE *DAY*, YOU "SANG THE FATES" IN WAYS THAT WERE CRYPTIC ENOUGH FOR MULTIPLE INTERPRETATIONS.

I SIMPLY HAD TO SEARCH FOR A REVERED *AUTHORITY FIGURE* KNOWN FOR PURPOSELY SPEAKING IN RIDDLES. WHO BETTER THAN THE HEAD OF THE *FEDERAL RESERVE?*

NO OFFENSE, BUT THAT KIND OF DETECTIVE WORK DOESN'T SEEM IN YOUR *WHEELHOUSE*.

VERY WELL. MINERVA TOLD ME.

I NEED A GLIMPSE OF THE IMMEDIATE *FUTURE*, SIBYL, TO KNOW WHEN *KANG* WILL NEXT ATTACK THE *AVENGERS*.

KANG? OH, HE'S *CATASTROPHIC*, THAT ONE.

I'M AWARE.

SCARLET CENTURION, *TOO?* ALL RIGHT. LET ME DO MY *THING*. I CAN VIEW ALL TIME AND SPACE FROM HERE, SEE WHAT HE'S *UP* TO--

EEEEYAHH!

SIBYL!

I'M OKAY. I'M OKAY.

THIS IS *BAD*, HERCULES. KANG HAS *ELIMINATED* THE AVENGERS BY HAVING THEM *MURDERED* AS *BABIES*. TIME HAS *WARPED*. THE AVENGERS NO LONGER *EXIST*.

I STILL EXIST. WHY?

EITHER HE SEES YOU AS NOTHING TO *FRET* OVER--

KANG IS CREATING ***PARADOXES*** THAT ARE ENDANGERING ALL ***REALITY***. THAT'S WHY WE STILL ***REMEMBER*** AVENGERS ***NEVER BORN.***

IN ONE OF HIS ***MANY*** FORMS, KANG ***WILL*** COME FOR YOU EVENTUALLY. TAKE THIS FOR SOME SEMBLANCE OF ***PROTECTION.***

--OR, MORE ***LIKELY***, THERE AREN'T ANY ***RECORDS*** OF YOUR BIRTH. WHAT ***YEAR*** WAS IT? ***I*** DON'T KNOW. ***NO*** ONE DOES.

YOU'LL RECALL THAT, IN ANCIENT ROME, I STOOD AT THE DOOR TO THE ***AFTERLIFE.*** THIS KEPT ME ***SAFE.***

IT WILL KEEP YOU AND THOSE AROUND YOU TETHERED TO THE MORTAL PLANE.

AND THIS ***KEY CARD?***

WHICH IS...?

DID WE EVER THINK WE'D BE USING WORDS LIKE "KEY CARD"?

ACCESS TO MY PRIVATE JET. YOU'RE GOING TO NEED IT TO GET TO YOUR NEXT STOP.

VIETNAM.
THE TEMPLE OF
THE PRIESTS OF PAMA.

BOOM

WHERE IS THE INFANT?

WHERE, VISION?

I HAVE ALREADY **TOLD** YOU: I OFFLOADED THAT DATA FOR THE AVENGERS' PROTECTION.

I DON'T FEEL VERY ***PROTECTED*** RIGHT NOW!

I AM SORRY, WASP. PERHAPS OUR **HOST...?**

I, TOO, AM A VICTIM OF KANG'S PARADOXES: THE ***MEMORY*** OF WHAT MY PAST SELF LEARNED ABOUT THE CHILD HAS ***FADED.***

THERE IS ***SOMETHING*** I REMEMBER--SOMETHING ABOUT AN ***ARTIFACT*** OR ***STONE*** OR SOME SUCH THAT IS ***KEY***--BUT UNTIL SOMETHING OCCURS TO ***REMIND*** ME--

"--THERE IS NOTHING I CAN ***DO!***"

OF *COURSE* THE ANDROID TURNED TO THE PRIESTS OF PAMA!

THEY SEEM A *HARDY* BREED--

--BUT WHAT THEY WIELD IN *NUMBERS*, THEY LACK IN *FIREPOWER!*

YOU ARE NOT *WELCOME* HERE.

WE ARE *PACIFISTS* BY NATURE, BUT WE *WILL FIGHT* TO SAVE THE *CHILD* ENTRUSTED TO US.

I WOULD EXPECT NO *LESS* THAN *HONORABLE COMBAT.*

THE AVENGERS ARE AMONG THE FEW AWARE OF YOUR *EXISTENCE.*

YOUR *TEMPLE* IS AS CLEVER A HIDING PLACE AS VISION WOULD BE LIKELY TO *FIND* IN THIS DECADE.

YOU GUARD IT *WELL.*

BUT I AM *KANG.*

I *CONQUER.*

NOT TODAY.

THESE PEOPLE ARE UNDER MY PROTECTION!

AH, YES. THE UNACCOUNTED-FOR AVENGER.

LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU FIGHT ONCE I DRAW A CENTURY OR TWO OUT OF YOU.

A CENTURY?

PLEASE.

I AM HERCULES, SON OF ZEUS! I'LL LIVE TO SEE THE SUN GO COLD!

I HAVE CENTURIES TO SPARE!

SLAP!

KANG, YOU DODDERING FOOL!

YOU'RE BEING TOO CLEVER BY HALF! LET ME HANDLE THE GREEK!

JUST TAKE CARE OF THE PRIESTS!

NO!

KRAKOOM

HNNHH

WAAAAA

...THE...THE CHILD...

WAAAAA

...HOW...TO KEEP YOU SAFE...?

SURRENDER, YOU PATHETIC *LOUT!*

YOU ARE *POWERLESS* BEFORE US.

WRONG.

YOU ARE *BEATEN. WORTHLESS.*

AND *ALONE.*

HE'S WITH US.

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

STAY CLOSE TO HERCULES AND THE PENDANT!

YOU CANNOT DIE WITHIN ITS RADIUS! YOU'RE SAFE HERE SO LONG AS YOU--

ANOTHER *OFFSHOOT*, ARE YOU?

AIEEEEEEE--*

MORE OF A *CAUTIONARY TALE* THAN A *WORTHY RIVAL*...

...WEAKLING.

YOU SEEMED *SURPRISED* THAT I WOULD ATTACK *YOU*. WHAT A--

--*PARADOX*--!

WE *CANNOT* ALLOW KANG-- *ANY* KANG--TO SEIZE THE *INFANT*!

HOLD THE LINE!

LOOK AT YOU. WHY *FIGHT?* YOU *KNOW* HOW THIS WILL *END.*

EVENTUALLY, I *WILL HAVE* MY PRIZE. I CAN WAGE WAR *FOREVER.*

TIME IS ON *MY SIDE.*

!

HE'S *RIGHT.*

THERE IS ONLY **ONE WAY** TO UNDO THE **CHAOS**, THE **KILLINGS**, THE **HAVOC** WROUGHT THUS FAR BY OUR FOE.

WE MUST PUT **RIGHT** WHAT I MADE **WRONG.**

WE MUST **RETURN** THE BABY KANG TO HIS **RIGHTFUL ERA.**

SAY **WHAT?**

NEANDERTHALS.

ALL YOU **COMPREHEND** IS **BRUTE FORCE.**

THWAM

CRUDE WEAPONS.

NO TASTE FOR **KILLING.**

HOW WERE YOU **EVER** A THREAT?

WAIT. HOW CAN WE--?

SINCE WHEN DO YOU HAVE YOUR OWN PERSONAL *TIME MACHINE* HANDY?

*SINCE **OUR** KANG WAS RELIEVED OF **HIS**.*

I KILLED YOU ***ONCE ALREADY*** TODAY, SPIDER-MAN.

I'M GETTING RATHER ***GOOD*** AT IT.

EYAAAAAAH!

*MY SYSTEM HAS INTERFACED WITH THE **SUIT CONTROLS**. I HAVE **PROGRAMMED** IT TO SEEK THE PRECISE **MOMENT** OF THE CHILD'S **ABDUCTION!***

RETURN HIM!

*THE REST OF US ARE BEST SUITED TO SHIELD YOU FROM **PURSUIT!***

*FLY, NADIA! **YOU ALONE** CAN **SAVE US!***

ME?

FLY!

TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT

Got feedback? Send letters to **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** marked "**Okay to Print**"!

MARVEL

#3

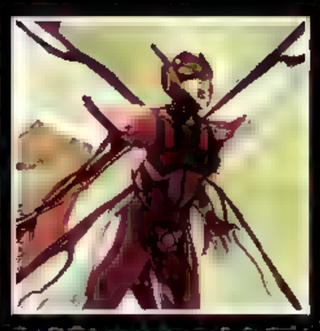
MARK WAID
MIKE DEL MUNDO

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

THE AVENGERS®

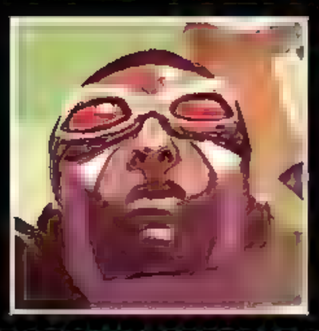
And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat. On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

THE AVENGERS 7



WASP
Nadia Pym

THOR
Jane Foster



CAPTAIN AMERICA
Sam Wilson

VISION

SPIDER-MAN
Peter Parker

HERCULES

The Vision traveled through time to abduct the infamous villain Kang as a baby, hoping that Kang would never grow up to terrorize Vision and his fellow Avengers. The resulting paradox created dozens of vengeful Kangs, who went back in time and killed the Avengers as children.

A rogue version of Kang protected the Avengers long enough for Hercules to find an amulet that would sustain the paradox of their existence, but just as the Avengers returned, the evil Kangs found their child self being sheltered by the mysterious Priests of Pama. As the battle turned ugly, Wasp was forced to don Kang's time armor and flee with the baby through the timestream!

Writer	**Mark Waid**
Artist	**Mike del Mundo**
Color Artists	**Mike del Mundo with Marco D'Alfonso**
Letterer	**VC's Cory Petit**
Cover	**Alex Ross**
Variant Cover	**Julian Totino Tedesco**
Assistant Editor	**Alanna Smith**
Editor	**Tom Brevoort**
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Chief Creative Officer	**Joe Quesada**
Publisher	**Dan Buckley**
Executive Producer	**Alan Fine**

The Avengers created by **Stan Lee & Jack Kirby**

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THE TIMESTREAM.

HUSH, LITTLE ONE.

WE'LL GET YOU BACK TO WHERE--

--TO *WHEN*--

--YOU *BELONG.*

UNTIL THEN, CALL ME ***AUNT NADIA***, WHO WILL LOOK ***OUT*** FOR YOU...

...AND WHO IS ABSOLUTELY ***NOT*** TALKING TO HERSELF SO SHE'S NOT FREAKED OUT BY A TRIP THROUGH THE ***TIMESTREAM.***

THIS IS NOT WHAT I ***EXPECTED...***

...BUT IT MAKES SENSE THAT IT LOOKS DIFFERENT TO ***EVERYONE*** DEPENDING UPON WHAT ***TECH*** THEY'RE USING TO TRAV--

!

I FLEW TOO CLOSE.

I FLEW TOO CLOSE!

DO NOT *FEAR*, BABY KANG--

--I WILL FIGHT ALL OF *HISTORY* IF IT WILL ALLOW US TO *CONTINUE.*

SINCE KANG HAD US ALL KILLED AS *INFANTS*, ONLY KANG'S *CIRCUITRY* AND THE MAGIC OF HERCULES' *NECKLACE* ARE SAVING *ANY* OF US FROM *VANISHING.*

I CAN *UNDO* THAT PARADOX. SO MUCH *DEPENDS* ON MY RETURNING YOU TO YOUR POINT OF *ORIGIN--*

"--INCLUDING THE LIVES OF THE *AVENGERS!*"

EARTH. NOW.

AH, YES. THE FISTS OF *HERCULES* AND THOR'S MIGHTY URU *HAMMER.*

ACCORDING TO LEGEND, ONLY ONE OF *"WORTH"* MAY *LIFT* MJOLNIR--

--BUT IT CAN CERTAINLY BE FROZEN IN *TIME* MID-FLIGHT.

YOU *DISAPPOINT* ME, VISION. SUCH A CRUDE *ATTACK.*

SOMEWHAT LIKE *YOU,* I CAN SHIFT MY MOLECULES *OUT OF PHASE,* EXISTING *BETWEEN* THE TICKS OF A SECOND. *UNTOUCHABLE--*

--AND YET CAPABLE OF GREAT *DESTRUCTION--*

--SUCH AS REDUCING YOU TO *DUST.*

EYAAAAGH!

YOU--YOU'RE *UNAFFECTED--?* YOU SHOULD HAVE--

HOW... HOW IS THAT *POSSIBLE...?*

AN EXCELLENT QUERY...

I'M BEGINNING TO THINK WE'RE *OUTGUNNED* HERE!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT YOUR BIRD!

BREAK THE BARRIER! HURRY!

YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO ME IF I'M SEPARATED FROM MJOLNIR FOR TOO LONG!

I DO NOT--

--BUT IF IT IS OF CONCERN TO ONE AVENGER, IT CONCERNS US ALL.

REACH THROUGH MY HAND CAREFULLY--

--AND THE HAMMER IS YOURS.

THE INFANT--

--THE WASP--

--BOTH GONE!

SOMEHOW, THE GIRL HAS BEEN EQUIPPED TO TRAVEL INTO THE FUTURE! I'M TRACKING HER AS WE SPEAK! BUT IF SHE HAS THE CHILD--

--THEN HIS PRESENCE HERE NO LONGER TRAPS US IN THIS BACKWARDS ERA!

WE CAN PURSUE!

WASP!

SURRENDER THE CHILD!

OH, NO...

THEY'RE *MASTERS* OF THE TIMESTREAM, LITTLE ONE! THIS IS ALL *NEW* TO ME!

I DON'T THINK I CAN *OUTRUN* THEM--

OH!

?

WHO--?

WE HAVE *REMEMBERED* YOU FOR *FIVE HUNDRED YEARS*, WASP.

THIS IS THE *26TH CENTURY*. WE ARE THE REMAINING *PRIESTS* OF *PAMA*-- AND WE CAN *HELP* YOU.

THE PRIESTS OF--?

YOU WERE A LOT MORE... *LOW-TECH* BACK IN *MY* DAY. WHAT *HAPPENED?*

"THE *CHILD* HAPPENED.

"WE DIDN'T *REALIZE* IT AT THE *TIME*...BUT THE VERY PARADOX OF ITS *EXISTENCE* AMONG US... AN INFANT RIPPED FROM ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE *TIMESTREAM*...

"...GRADUALLY BESTOWED UPON ***US*** A RANGE OF MINOR CHRONAL POWERS.

"OVER THE CENTURIES, THEY HAVE ***CHANGED*** US, AND OUR ***CHILDREN***, AND ***THEIR*** CHILDREN.

"NOW ***TIME ITSELF*** IS OUR ***SUSTENANCE***. CAREFULLY, SURGICALLY, WE EXTRACT MEANINGLESS SECONDS, INCONSEQUENTIAL MINUTES. IT IS WHAT ***SUSTAINS*** US."

SO YOU'RE BASICALLY KANGS, ***TOO.***

HARDLY. KANG'S DESIRE WAS ALWAYS TO ***DEMOLISH*** TIME, CREATING ***PARADOXES*** UPON WHICH TO FEED.

OUR SWORN MISSION IS TO ***PROTECT*** HISTORY FROM CONTRADICTIONS IN TIME. COME. LET US SHOW YOU.

THIS IS THE ***ETERNAL FLAME OF PAMA.***

THE CENTERPIECE OF OUR CRUSADE.

IT'S FUELED BY THE ***IMPOSSIBLE.***

IT'S FUELED BY ***TIME PARADOXES.***

WAIT.

WE *WILL* WIN...

...BUT FOR *EXPEDIENCY'S* SAKE, PERHAPS SOME *REINFORCEMENTS...?*

SEARCHING THROUGH HISTORY EVEN *NOW* FOR SOLDIERS.

HERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING. PERHAPS A GLIMPSE BEHIND THE DOOR--

HERE LIES AVENGER X BRAVEST OF US ALL

...

...MOONS OF *TITAN*... HOW DID I NEVER KNOW ABOUT...

SP-TANG

CRIMINY *PETE!* *CONQUERORS* TODAY AND THEIR *SMARTPHONES*, RIGHT?

IS EVERYTHING A JOKE TO YOU?

WE ALL HAVE OUR COPING MECHANISMS. LOOK OUT--!

I'LL BE HONEST WITH YOU, CAP. I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN KEEP *FIGHTING*. IT'S LIKE TRYING TO PUSH THE *TIDE* BACK WITH A *BROOM*.

MAN, *STEVE ROGERS* USED TO GIVE *THE BEST* MOTIVATIONAL SPEECHES...

SUCK IT UP.

BY NO RIGHTS SHOULD ANY OF YOU EVEN BE *ALIVE* WITH YOUR INFANT SELVES *ERASED!* FIGHT LIKE AN *OLYMPIAN!*

BETTER YET, LIKE A *NORSEWOMAN!*

SURELY THEY ARE *WEAKENING--*

HARDLY.

GIVE *US* THE CHILD. THIS IS YOUR *OPPORTUNITY.*

WE *UNDERSTAND* THAT YOU LEFT YOUR *TEAMMATES* IN HOPES OF *SAVING* THEM--

--BUT YOU'LL NEVER SURVIVE THE TIMESTREAM *ALONE.*

LET US SURRENDER THE CHILD--THIS *LIVING PARADOX*--TO THE *FLAME,* AND ALL THIS COMES TO AN *END.*

KANG WILL NEVER HAVE BEEN *BORN.*

AND IT ALL GOES *AWAY.*

LOOK. THROUGH THE *FLAMES OF TIME.* YOUR ALLIES ARE *DEPENDING* ON YOU TO DO THE *RIGHT THING.*

THEIR VERY LIVES ARE IN YOUR HANDS.

HE'S A BABY--!

WHO WILL GROW UP TO BECOME HISTORY'S GREATEST VILLAIN MANY TIMES OVER.

THE FLAME CLEANSES PARADOXES, CORRECTS THEM. GIVING THE BABY TO IT ENSURES THE LIVES OF BILLIONS.

IT SAVES YOUR FRIENDS.

THOOM

IT IS YOUR ONE OPTION.

WE REALIZE THIS IS DIFFICULT FOR YOU, BUT THE ANSWER IS CLEAR.

BY KEEPING THE BABY ALIVE, YOU ARE DOOMING YOUR FRIENDS TO AN ETERNITY OF AGONIZING TORTURE.

HISTORY REVERES THE AVENGERS.

HISTORY WILL HONOR YOU.

NO!

SHHH! SHHH!

REGARDLESS OF YOUR FUTURE, YOU ARE AN *INNOCENT.*

IT IS AN AVENGER'S JOB TO *PROTECT* THE INNOCENT.

SO FORGIVE ME, LITTLE ONE...

...IF I FAIL IN WHAT HAPPENS *NEXT.*

GET... UP...

...TRYING...

...DON'T KNOW...THAT I *CAN*...

CAN COME...BACK *STRONGER*...

RUH... *RETREAT*...

TO... *WHERE*...? WE'RE *T-TRAPPED*...!

WHAT WAS SHE TRYING TO DO?

WHAT WAS SHE *THINKING?*

I WAS *THINKING...*

...ABOUT HOW YOUR *MAGIC FLAME* CORRECTS *TIME PARADOXES.*

STEPPING *THROUGH* IT *UNDID* THE *INFANTICIDE* KANG SET UPON US!

SPIDER, GET THE *BABY!*

IF I HAD A *NICKEL...*

YOU! YOU SAID YOUR PEOPLE LITERALLY *FEED* ON *TIME?*

Y-YES--!

THEN GET READY FOR *ALL YOU CAN EAT!*

THOR, *HIT IT!*

FOOLS!

WE SNAPPED YOU LIKE *TWIGS* IN YOUR *OWN* TIME! NOW YOU WON'T EVEN DIE WITH DIGNITY IN YOUR OWN *ERA--*

WHAT--

--WHAT'S *HAPPENING--?*

I--I FEEL *WEAK--*

DON'T WORRY.

YOU WON'T *FEEL* FOR *LONG.*

NO!

I AM *KANG!*

KANG THE CONQUE--*

MY GOD. IT'S LIKE A *ZOMBIE HORDE.*

LET'S NOT STAND AROUND *WATCHING!*

EVERYONE *GRAB HOLD!* I THINK I CAN TAKE US *OUT* OF HERE!

OH, YEAH-- WATCH OUT FOR *GRABBY HANDS!*

NEXT STOP...

"...THE YEAR 3000!"

THE BABY'S BACK WHERE HE STARTED. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

MIXED *FEELINGS*, A BIT.

I *DID* JUST RESTORE THE TIMELINE OF AN *INTERCHRONAL MADMAN--*

WHICH, WHEN DISRUPTED, CREATES ITS OWN PARTICULAR CHAOS.

YOU HAVE CORRECTED MY SINGLE MOST GRIEVOUS ERROR.

CONSOLE YOURSELF KNOWING THERE IS A **REASON** KANG MUST BE ALLOWED TO GROW TO MANHOOD...

KID, YOU DID **GREAT.**

WE **LITERALLY** OWE OUR **LIVES** TO YOU.

WHATEVER.

SO WHERE DOES THIS **LEAVE** US?

AS WE WERE. IN ETERNAL BATTLE WITH KANG, WHO CAN STRIKE AT US ANYWHERE, AT ANY MOMENT.

NOT **NECESSARILY.**

I'VE BEEN **THINKING. WITHOUT** DISRUPTING TIME, THERE **MAY** BE A WAY TO **ELIMINATE** KANG'S THREAT ONCE AND FOR **ALL.**

I HAVE A **PLAN.**

WHO'S **IN?**

NEXT:
KANG WAR IV

NEXT

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#4

MARK WAID • MIKE DEL MUNDO

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

THE AVENGERS®

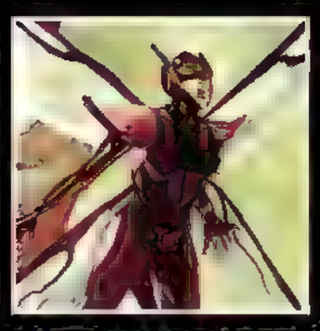
THEY'RE COMING.

I CAN HEAR THEM SPLINTERING THE *TIME BARRIER* OVER AND *OVER* WITH THE GRACELESSNESS OF *HAZAEL'S ARMY* LEVELING THE *PHILISTINE WALL.*

IF THEY BELIEVE I *FEAR* THEM, THEY ARE *MISTAKEN.*

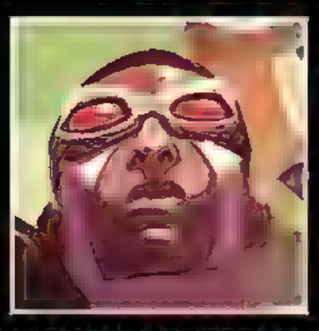
And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat. On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

THE AVENGERS



WASP
Nadia Pym

THOR
Jane Foster



CAPTAIN AMERICA
Sam Wilson

VISION

SPIDER-MAN
Peter Parker

HERCULES

The Vision traveled through time to abduct the infamous villain Kang as a baby, hoping that Kang would never grow up to terrorize Vision and his fellow Avengers. The resulting paradox created dozens of vengeful Kangs all out for blood.

The Avengers barely survived the encounter and were forced to return the baby Kang to his point of origin to stem the flood of alternate Kangs. But they're far from finished with the time-traveling villain, and Captain America has a new plan to take him down for good...

Writer	**Mark Waid**
Artist	**Mike del Mundo**
Color Artists	**Mike del Mundo with Marco D'Alfonso**
Letterer	**VC's Cory Petit**
Cover	**Alex Ross**
Variant Cover	**Joe Jusko**
Assistant Editor	**Alanna Smith**
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I AM KNOWN AS *KANG THE CONQUEROR*--

--A BIT *REDUNDANTLY*, GIVEN THE ORIGINS OF THE NAME *"KANG,"* WHICH ARE NOT MINE TO *REVEAL*--

--AND I MAKE MY HOME AT THE END OF TIME.

MY CITADEL ORBITS THE LAST DYING STAR. OUTSIDE ITS WALLS, ENTROPY GRADUALLY SLOWS EVERY ATOM, EVERY MOLECULE, INTO IMMOBILITY.

THE ONLY SOUND IS OF ELECTRONS STRUGGLING TO COMPLETE ONE LAST CIRCUIT.

IT IS A SILENCE THAT COULD EXIST ONLY HERE, AND IT IS FAR MORE PEACEFUL THAN THE NOISE OF HISTORY'S MARCH.

HERE, I AM THE EMPEROR OF *NOTHING.* BUT ELSEWHEN...

MANY EMPIRES HAVE I, ACROSS THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM--

--FAR TOO NUMEROUS TO OVERSEE, EVEN FOR A MAN WHO CAN EXIST NEAR-SIMULTANEOUSLY ACROSS THE MILLENNIA.

MY GENERALS, IF YOU'LL FORGIVE THE ANTIQUATED TERM, SERVE ME WELL AND ARE REWARDED HANDSOMELY FOR MAINTAINING A *SUPPLY LINE.*

THE 17TH CENTURY *DIAMOND MINERS* FUND THE 45TH CENTURY *MUNITIONS MAKERS,* WHOSE ARTILLERY REMOVES THE 38TH CENTURY *RESISTANCE,* AND SO ON AND SO ON.

IT IS A CLOCKWORK SYSTEM THAT TOOK CENTURIES TO CRYSTALLIZE, BUT POWER PLACED IN RELATIVELY TRUSTWORTHY HANDS REAPS A MAGNIFICENT REWARD:

THE ABILITY TO SEE YOUR OWN ***HOMETIME*** FOR WHAT IT ***IS.***

IN MY CASE, BILLIONS OF MEWLING, NAMELESS, FACELESS WEAKLINGS WHOSE ONLY CHALLENGE IS IN DECIDING WHICH TEAT TO SUCKLE.

A ***PLANET*** OF ***CIPHERS*** TOO ***INDOLENT*** TO RISE ABOVE THE ***CROWD.*** IN OTHER WORDS...

...NO ***COMPETITION.***

EVERY AGE OF HUMANITY IS MARKED BY A MAN OF ACTION, ONE FOREVER REMEMBERED FOR HIS VISION AND WILL. A MAN ***IMMORTAL***, HIS PRAISES RESONATING ***ETERNALLY*** ACROSS THE GALAXIES.

THIS WOULD BE ***MY*** TIME. THE 31ST CENTURY BELONGED TO ***ME.***

IT JUST DIDN'T ***KNOW*** IT YET.

THE FIRST STEP WASN'T GEOGRAPHICAL, IT WAS ***CHRONAL***--BUILDING A TIME-TRAVEL APPARATUS.

WHAT I WAS INVESTIGATING HAD BEEN OUTLAWED FOUR CENTURIES EARLIER FOLLOWING THE MYSTERIOUS ***"RAVONNA PARADOX,"*** BUT WHO WAS GOING TO STOP ***ME?***

ORDINARILY, A NEUROSTIMULATED BRAIN CAN ABSORB A DECADE'S WORTH OF ***KNOWLEDGE*** IN AN ***HOUR.***

DRINKING IN AND COMPREHENDING THE FORBIDDEN NOTES OF THE THOUSAND-YEARS-GONE ***VICTOR VON DOOM*** TOOK ***TWO MONTHS.***

I BELIEVED--STILL BELIEVE--THAT A LEGEND REQUIRES ***IMMORTALITY*** TO SUSTAIN ITSELF. THIS BELIEF TOOK ME TO ***ANCIENT EGYPT***, THE FIRST CIVILIZATION RUMORED TO HAVE ***MASTERED*** ETERNAL LIFE.

BOTH THE ***QURAN*** AND THE ***NAG HAMMADI*** TOLD OF LIFE-EXTENDING ***ELIXIRS***, WHILE THE TEACHINGS OF ***OSIRIS*** PROMISED PERPETUAL EXISTENCE.

ALL ***NONSENSE***, AS IT TURNED OUT--SO I MYSELF CREATED SOMETHING "ETERNAL."

LOCALIZING MYSELF AS A ***PHARAOH*** NAMED ***RAMA-TUT***, I USED MY ***TECHNOLOGY*** TO CREATE MY FIRST ***ARMY***, 100,000 STRONG.

UNDER MY DIRECTION, THEY BUILT GREAT ***PYRAMIDS*** IN WHICH TO STORE ***ARTIFACTS*** FOR CENTURIES TO ***COME...***

...***ARTIFACTS*** OF MY DESIGN.

WEAPONS, COMPUTERS--***MAGIC*** TO THEM. DEVICES DESIGNED TO WHIP THROUGH SUBSPACE, TO SHATTER ***MOUNTAINS.***

ALL TO BE HIDDEN ***AWAY*** UNTIL I ***NEEDED*** THEM.

MY TIME IN EGYPT ***DONE***, I RETURNED ***HOME***...

...AND FOR THE FIRST AND LAST TIME, SUFFERED ***HUBRIS***.

I HAD NOT ***APPRECIATED*** THE MIGHT OF THE ***TIMESTREAM***, HAD NOT TRAVERSED IT ***RESPECTFULLY***, AND AS SUCH HAD BEEN ***PUNISHED*** FOR MY ARROGANCE.

I WOUND UP ***NOT*** IN MY FAMILIAR ERA, BUT A THOUSAND YEARS ***LATER***, IN THE 41ST CENTURY--A CAVEMAN HELPLESSLY WANDERING ***TOMORROW***.

IT TOOK ME ***WEEKS*** TO SEIZE CONTROL.

RECALLING AN ABANDONED ***TIMESUIT*** DESIGN OF MINE, I REPLICATED IT TO FIT THE STYLE OF THE YEAR 4086 MORE COMMANDINGLY THAN WOULD THAT OF AN ***EGYPTIAN KING***.

WITH THE TEACHINGS OF ALL HISTORY'S MILITARY AT MY FINGERTIPS, ***CONTINENTS*** FELL BEFORE ME.

BUT EVEN A ***CONQUEROR*** REQUIRES ***RESOURCES***.

RECORDS TOLD OF A VAST STORE OF PRICELESS GEMSTONES AND RARE METALS FROM ACROSS THE GALAXY, ALL BURIED WITHIN A LONG-FORGOTTEN *TOMB...*

...ALONG WITH ITS OWNER, EQUALLY FORGOTTEN, HIS PITIABLE NAME DROWNED OUT BY THE TORRENT OF TIME'S RIVERS, WHOEVER HE MIGHT BE.

CURIOUS, I LIFTED THE LID OF HIS SARCOPHAGUS TO SEE THE FACE OF THE MAN WHOM HISTORY HAD ERADICATED.

IT WAS MINE.

THAT WAS WHEN I DECIDED TIME COULD BE--*MUST* BE--*REWRITTEN.*

THAT WAS THE "GIFT" OF THE MOMENT. THAT...

...AND A *MASK.*

A PERFECT SYMBOL.

A WATCHFUL FACE THAT IS *FOREVER TIMELESS.*

FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, ASPIRATION BECAME CONVICTION, CONVICTION BECAME *ZEALOTRY.*

I FEARED NOTHING. I BOWED TO NO MAN.

LIVE OR DIE, I WOULD CARVE A LEGACY THAT COULD *NEVER* FALL FROM MEMORY.

I WOULD SOW THE NAME *KANG* FROM ONE END OF SPACE-TIME TO THE *OTHER,* AND WOE TO ANY WHO WOULD STAND *BEFORE* ME.

THE THUNDER THAT SPLITS THE SILENCE IS ASSURANCE THAT MY ENEMIES GROW NEAR.

"NO DOUBT THEY BELIEVE THEMSELVES *PREPARED.* THEY ARE, AS EVER, *FOOLS,*" I HEAR MYSELF SAY...

...AS MY VAST AND CURATED ARSENAL *VANISHES* BEFORE MY *VERY EYES.*

MY *LIEUTENANTS* ARE SUDDENLY NOWHERE TO BE *SEEN.*

ONE BY ONE, MY *RESOURCES...*

...MY *RESOURCES* TURN TO *DUST.*

WITH A ROAR AS LOUD AS TIME ITSELF COLLAPSING...

...THEY ARRIVE.

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN RECORDED HISTORY...

...I AM AFRAID.

NEXT:
AVENGERS ASSEMBLED!

NEXT

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#5

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

THE AVENGERS®

VISIONS OF TOMORROW!

MARK WAID • MIKE DEL MUNDO

IT IS CALLED A **TIME TETHER.** IT CONNECTS **TODAY** WITH THE LONG-DISTANT HEAT-DEATH OF THE **UNIVERSE.**

WITH IT, WE CAN ACT OUT CAPTAIN AMERICA'S PLAN TO VANQUISH **KANG THE CONQUEROR** FOR **GOOD.**

I...**DO** HAVE A **PLAN...** BUT THAT'S NOT--

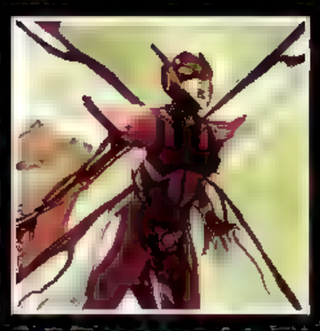
VISION, NO OFFENSE, BUT THAT LEVEL OF SCIENCE DOESN'T SEEM **POSSIBLE** IN THE 21ST CENTURY. DID YOU **BUILD** THAT?

YES...

...BUT NOT FOR SEVERAL CENTURIES.

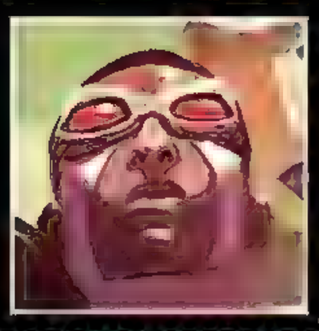
And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat. On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

THE AVENGERS 7



WASP
Nadia Pym

THOR
Jane Foster



CAPTAIN AMERICA
Sam Wilson

VISION

SPIDER-MAN
Peter Parker

HERCULES

The Vision traveled through time to abduct the infamous villain Kang as a baby, hoping that Kang would never grow up to terrorize Vision and his fellow Avengers. The resulting paradox created dozens of vengeful Kangs, all out for blood.

The Avengers barely survived the encounter and were forced to return the baby Kang to his point of origin to stem the flood of alternate Kangs. But they're far from finished with the time-traveling villain, and Captain America has a new plan to take him down for good...

Writer	**Mark Waid**
Artist	**Mike del Mundo**
Color Artists	**Mike del Mundo with Marco D'Alfonso**
Letterer	**VC's Cory Petit**
Cover	**Alex Ross**
Variant Cover	**David Marquez & Richard Isanove**
Assistant Editor	**Alanna Smith**
Editor	**Tom Brevoort**
Editor in Chief	**Axel Alonso**
Chief Creative Officer	**Joe Quesada**
President	**Dan Buckley**
Executive Producer	**Alan Fine**

The Avengers created by **Stan Lee & Jack Kirby**

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WHO--?

HOLD, CAPTAIN. WE--HE--CAN EXPLAIN.

ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING AN ARTIFICIAL CONSTRUCT, AVENGERS.

I **AM** THE VISION. BY REPLACING PARTS AND ORGANS, A **SYNTHEZOID** CAN LIVE AS LONG AS HE **WISHES** TO...

...AND HE CAN LEARN A GREAT DEAL ABOUT **TIME TRAVEL** OVER THE **CENTURIES.**

THOUGH IT HAS BEEN **MILLENNIA,** I BELIEVE I RECALL CAPTAIN AMERICA RECOMMENDING **SURGICAL STRIKES** ON KANG'S VARIOUS **EMPIRES** AND **SUPPLY LINES** THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES.

AN EXCELLENT PLAN. IF I MAY, I CAN TAKE IT ONE STEP **FURTHER.**

ARE YOU BUYING ANY OF THIS?

NEAR-IMMORTALITY? IS THAT A DIFFICULT CONCEPT FOR YOU?

AVENGERS... WELCOME TO THE END OF **TIME.**

THIS IS KANG'S ULTIMATE **STRONGHOLD...**

...AND THIS IS THE OTHER END OF THE TIME TETHER.

IT STRETCHES UNBROKEN THROUGH ALL OF HISTORY.

ATTACKING KANG IN DIFFERENT TIME PERIODS IS LAUDABLE...

...BUT IF YOU USE THESE "TIME BOMBS"--IF THOSE ATTACKS CAN TAKE PLACE SIMULTANEOUSLY RELATIVE TO THE TETHER--

--THE ENERGIES GENERATED CAN MAGNIFY ENOUGH TO MOVE FORWARD--

"—AND DESTROY KANG'S FORTRESS ONCE AND FOR ALL, LEAVING HIM NO RESOURCES, NO POWER, NOWHERE TO TURN."

I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND WHY "SIMULTANEOUSLY" MATTERS GIVEN THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT BILLIONS OF YEARS...?

THE NATURE OF THE TETHER. IT IS A QUANTUM STRING EXISTING EVERYWHERE AT ONCE.

COOL!

BUT TO *ACT* IN SYNCHRONIZATION ACROSS THE *CENTURIES*, WE WILL HAVE TO DIVIDE OUR TEAM...

...WHICH COULD BE A *PROBLEM* GIVEN THE RESISTANCE WE'RE BOUND TO *ENCOUNTER.*

WE'RE GOING TO NEED SOME MORE *AVENGERS*, AND IF "FUTURE-VISION" HERE IS SO EAGER TO *HELP*...

...I KNOW JUST WHERE TO *FIND* THEM!

PARKER INDUSTRIES BUILDING, SUBBASEMENT.

WAIT. WHAT DO YOU *MEAN*... PETER PARKER HAS A *TIME MACHINE* IN HIS *BASEMENT?*

VISION FOUND IT--BURIED AWAY HERE WHEN THIS WAS STILL THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S *BAXTER BUILDING HEADQUARTERS.*

*I AM ABLE TO NAVIGATE THE TIMESTREAM ON MY **OWN**, BUT THE REST OF YOU WILL REQUIRE **THIS**.*

ONE LAST THING. BEFORE I *COMMIT* US TO THIS... YOU'RE *ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN* THIS "FUTURE-VISION" IS ON THE *LEVEL?*

YES.

*"I FIRST ENCOUNTERED HIM DURING MY OWN TIME TRAVEL, WHERE HE BEGAN TO GUIDE ME IN OUR DEALINGS WITH KANG.**

*"EARLIER TODAY, WHEN HE REVEALED HIMSELF NOT AS A LIVING SHADOW BUT AS AN AGED **SYNTHEZOID**, WE PLUMBED ONE ANOTHER'S **SECRETS**-- 'MELDED MINDS,' IF YOU WILL.*

"HE IS WHO HE CLAIMS TO BE, AND HE IS ON OUR SIDE."

**IN ALL-NEW ALL-DIFFERENT AVENGERS #13.*
--TOM

ISN'T IT... ***UNSETTLING*** TO DEAL WITH A FUTURE VERSION OF ***YOURSELF?*** HAVE YOU ***SPOKEN*** TO HIM ABOUT THAT?

NOT YET...

...BUT THE MOMENT WILL COME, AND SOON.

OKAY! DISMANTLING KANG'S ***EMPIRE*** IS GOING TO TAKE ***COORDINATION*** AND ***NUMBERS!***

THE VISION... THE ***VISIONS***...WILL HANDLE THE ***FIRST!*** AND IF WE'RE DIVIDING INTO ***TEAMS,*** I WANT ***BIG*** TEAMS THAT KNOW HOW TO WORK ***TOGETHER.***

"I WANT THE ***FIRST*** AVENGERS. THEY'RE COCKY, THEY'LL COME.

"I WANT THE *STRATEGISTS.* I WANT THE *MUSCLE.* THEY'LL VERIFY YOUR *AVENGERS* I.D. CARDS AND KNOW YOU'RE LEGIT.

"I WANT TO USE TIME TRAVEL *AGAINST* KANG FOR ONCE.

"I WANT TO MIX IT *UP* SO THAT KANG WILL HAVE NO IDEA WHO'S *HITTING* HIM."

SPIDER-MAN, HULK, BLACK KNIGHT, HERCULES-- YOU'RE WITH *ME.*

THOR, GIANT-MAN, CAPTAIN MARVEL, WASP--YOU'RE WITH... OTHER THOR. *OUR* THOR.

IRON MAN, CAP, SHE-HULK, NAMOR...YOU'RE WITH *NADIA.*

IF WE DO THIS, WE DO IT *TOGETHER,* SO SAY IT *WITH* ME:

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

*CONGRATULATIONS, CAPTAIN, ON YOUR FIRST **TIME PARADOX.***

THE ORIGINAL AVENGERS NOW LEARNED THEIR BATTLE CRY FROM YOU.

OH, MY *GOD.*

EGYPT, 2948 B.C.

--SAYING I'VE ALWAYS *HATED* TIME TRAVEL--

DOES HE *EVER* SHUT UP?

NO. HEADS UP, PEOPLE. ACCORDING TO *FUTURE-VISION*, THIS IS WHERE KANG HAS HIS SLAVES MAKING *HIGH-TECH WEAPONS* BY THE *THOUSANDS* EVERY HOUR.

THEY DON'T *KNOW* WHAT THEY'RE BUILDING. THEY DON'T *CARE*. BUT WE DO, AND WE'RE HERE TO SHUT IT *DOWN*.

HAH! CAKE-WALK.

YOU THINK? THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO MENTION THAT MY *SPIDER-SENSE* IS--

THWAM

--TINGLING.

ALLOW ME.

THAT IS A *HANDY* PIECE.

SHHMNG.

HA! GO AHEAD! PIT YOUR WEAPONS AGAINST *OLYMPIAN SKIN!*

IT *TICKLES.*

HULK! LOOK! BAD MEN COMING!

SHAKE FLOOR! HULK SMASH!

WHY ARE YOU TALKIN' TO ME LIKE I'M AN *IDIOT?*

GRRR

BECAUSE IN DAYS TO COME, YOU WILL BE?

DON'T GO THERE.

THAT WAS EASY.

WELL, WE *ARE* AVENGERS.

THEY'RE ALL *DOWN.*

KANG DOESN'T JUST HAVE HIS SLAVES BUILDING *SCIENCE WIDGETS*-- THEY'RE BUILDING *WEAPONS.*

SELF-GENERATING, OR ARE THEY DRAWING *POWER* FROM SOMEWHERE?

THE *SECOND.*

THAT LOOKS TO ME LIKE...

YEAH. I HAVE NO IDEA HOW KANG'S *CONTAINING* IT--

--BUT THIS IS A HIGH-TEMPERATURE GAS FUSION REACTOR OPERATING ON URANIUM/PLUTONIUM OXIDE AT FIVE *TIMES* THE CAPACITY--

ENGLISH!

WHAT, ARE YOU A GENIUS *SCIENTIST* UNDER THAT MASK?

GENIUS IS AN OVERUSED WORD.

THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T *SAY* IT.

IT'S A *FUSION REACTOR!* PLACING THE *TIME BOMB!*

NOW LET'S HOPE THE *VISIONS* HAVE US *COVERED,* LIKE THEY PROMISED!

IN THE MEANTIME, CAN WE GET BACK OUTSIDE? IT HAS TO BE 120 DEGREES IN HERE AT LEAST, AND THE *HEAT--*

--IT'S *KILLING* ME!

PLANET SACNIAA,
7215 A.D.

OH, MY GOD...

JAN, *LOOK* AT THAT *SKY!* WE--WE'RE REALLY ON ANOTHER *PLANET!* THIS IS *AMAZING!*

ANOTHER ITEM OFF YOUR *BUCKET LIST,* SWEETIE!

I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT WAS A TIME-AND-*SPACE* MACHINE WE GOT INTO!

IT WOULD *HAVE* TO BE. AT THE SPEED THE EARTH SPINS, GIVEN HOW FAST IT FLIES AROUND THE *SUN--*

--THE MACHINE HAS TO *COMPENSATE* FOR ALL THOSE FACTORS DURING ANY TIME TRAVEL.

THE VISIONS JUST *ADJUSTED* IT TO MOVE US ACROSS THE *GALAXY.*

IS THAT...?

BEST NOT TO GET INTO IT.

SPOILERS.

IT *IS* MJOLNIR! *MY* MJOLNIR! HOW DIDST *THOU* COME TO HOLD--

I DON'T KNOW WHAT ALL THIS *ASH* IS ABOUT, BUT THERE'S *GREENERY* AND *ACTIVITY* OF SOME SORT ABOUT TWENTY KLICKS *THAT* WAY.

WASP, FOR SPEED'S SAKE, LET ME GIVE YOU A *LIFT. THORS--*

--DO THE HONORS WITH *GIANT-MAN.*

WE KNOW THAT A CRITICAL BRANCH OF KANG'S *TIME SYNDICATE* IS HERE, AND MY GUESS IS, IT'S *THEM.*

THEY APPEAR TO BE *MINING* SOMETHING-- BUT THERE'S NO *EXCAVATION* EVIDENT, JUST MORE *ASH.*

WHAT *TRANSPIRES* HERE, MORTAL?

WE'RE *MINING.* WHO THE GRAK ARE *YOU?*

WE ARE--

--SENT BY **KANG** TO EVALUATE YOUR **PROGRESS.**

STATE YOUR **PURPOSE** HERE AND GIVE US A **STATUS REPORT**, OR YOU'RE HEADED FOR **LOCKUP.**

VERY WELL.

SHE'S **VERY** GOOD.

WHEN PEOPLE UNDERESTIMATE HER, SHE **WEAPONIZES** IT.

WE **MINE** FOR KANG.

WE MINE **TIME.** WHEN THE RESOURCES ARE **LIMITED,** WE PULL FROM THE **SURROUNDINGS--**

--STORING THE ACCUMULATED **CHRONAL ENERGIES** OF THE ITEMS **AGED** INTO SPECIAL **CONTAINERS** FOR LORD KANG TO **DRAW** FROM.

ADMITTEDLY, **USED** TIME ISN'T **IDEAL.**

FUTURES TAKEN, HOWEVER... **THAT'S** THE STUFF. SEE UP THAT WAY?

THAT COLONY OF *PRIMATES?*

KANG SAYS THEY'RE DESTINED TO BECOME A RACE OF ARTISTS AND SCIENTISTS WHO WILL BRING A NEW AGE OF REASON TO THIS STAR SYSTEM.

THIS STOLE THE FUTURE RIGHT *OUT* OF 'EM. A *PRICELESS* AMOUNT, SNOW-PURE.

NOW THEY'LL *NEVER* BE MORE THAN STINKIN' *APES.*

AVENGERS! BUST IT UP!

NOW!

WE DO NOT HAVE TO BE *TOLD.*

FROM THE WAY YOU WERE ABOUT TO *YELL* INTO IT, I ASSUME THAT'S A *COMMUNICATOR* OF SOME SORT.

DROP IT.

KZZZT.

AAAH!

DAMNABLE *HUMANOID--!*

HNNGH!

I'LL BOIL YOU FOR *SOUP.*

LET *GO* OF *HER!*

GYAAAH

HONEY, DID HE HURT--

?

HANK-- WHAT'S *HAPPENING?* WHAT'S HE *DOING?*

STEALING YOUR *FUTURE,* WHICH I SUSPECT WILL BE *VERY* SWEET *INDEED.*

NO!

BLAST-- WEIGHING ME *DOWN!* I CAN'T-- *REACH* HIM--!

HANK, STOP HIM! YOU HAVE TO! LOOK!

WITHOUT *US* AROUND TO GO ON AS *FOUNDING MEMBERS--*

"--THERE'LL *NEVER BE AN AVENGERS!"*

NORTH AMERICA, 4022 A.D.

DOG.

I DEMAND TO KNOW WHO YOU *ARE.*

WHO *SENT* YOU.

NN... NNHH...

...NEVER...!

VERY WELL.

BRING ME THE *YOUNG GIRL* AGAIN.

STEVE? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

=GFFF=

NO. THIS IS *MY FAULT.* I'M THE ONE WHO LET HIM GET THE *DROP* ON US THE SECOND WE *ARRIVED.*

NOW WE'RE UP AGAINST THE *ONE MAN* IN ALL THE *UNIVERSE* WE CAN'T *DEFEAT--*

--BECAUSE IF WE *STOP* HIM *HERE* AND *NOW--*

"--WE'LL CHANGE *HISTORY*--AND THE VISIONS' *PLAN* WILL *UNRAVEL!*"

AGAIN: I AM *KANG THE CONQUEROR.*

NOW WHO ARE *YOU* PEOPLE?

WHO?

TO BE CONCLUDED!

NEXT

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EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

THE AVENGERS®

MARK WAID • MIKE DEL MUNDO

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#6

And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat. On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

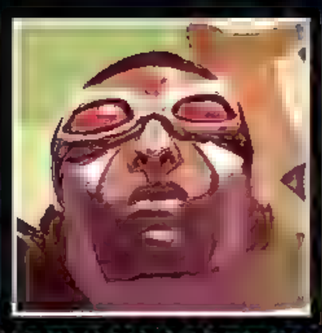
THE AVENGERS 7

The Vision traveled through time to abduct the infamous villain Kang as a baby, hoping to stop his reign of terror before it started. But the plan failed, and the Avengers were forced to return the infant Kang to his timeline.

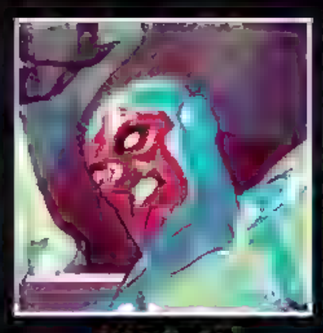
But Captain America was still determined to end Kang's threat for good, so he assembled a team of Avengers from different eras and led them on a multipronged attack against Kang strongholds throughout time. But with Nadia's team captured by Kang, and founding Avengers Wasp and Giant-Man under attack by creatures who steal futures, the mission may already be doomed!

WASP
Nadia Pym

THOR
Jane Foster



CAPTAIN AMERICA
Sam Wilson



VISION

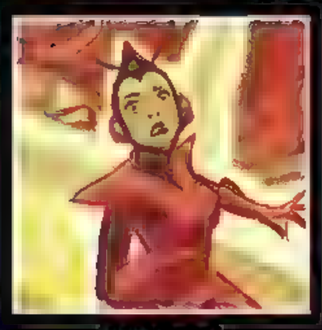
FUTURE VISION

SPIDER-MAN
Peter Parker

HERCULES

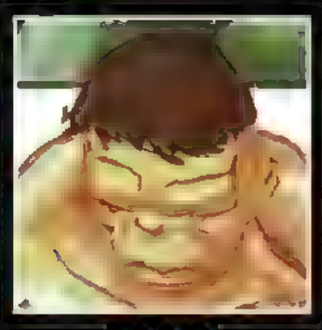
FOUNDING AVENGERS

GIANT-MAN



WASP
Janet Van Dyne

IRON MAN

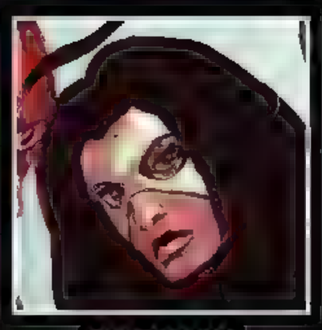


HULK

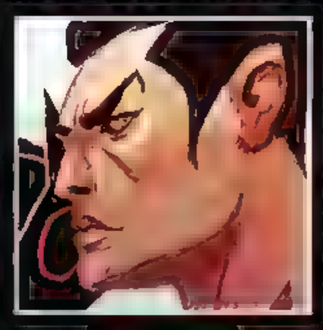
THOR ODINSON

PAST AVENGERS

CAPTAIN AMERICA
Steve Rogers



CAPTAIN MARVEL



NAMOR

SHE-HULK

BLACK KNIGHT

Writer
Mark Waid

Artist
Mike del Mundo

Color Artists
Mike del Mundo with Marco D'Alfonso

Letterer
VC's Cory Petit

Cover
Alex Ross

Assistant Editor
Alanna Smith

Editor
Tom Brevoort

Editor in Chief
Axel Alonso

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Joe Quesada

President
Dan Buckley

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WE HAVE FAILED.

TIME IS FLUID. PERHAPS THERE IS YET HOPE.

YOU SEEM TROUBLED.

WE ARE ON THE CUSP OF LOSING FOUR ERAS OF AVENGERS TO KANG.

UNDERSTOOD. BUT SEPARATE FROM THAT.

YOU ARE **ME**, HAVING LIVED TO THE END OF **TIME.**

IT IS... **DISCONCERTING** TO LEARN THAT I AM DESTINED TO OUTLIVE ALL WHOM I KNOW AND LOVE.

OR ARE YOU? CONSIDER **THESEUS' PARADOX.**

THESEUS, KING OF ANCIENT ATHENS, SET OUT IN A SHIP SOME CLAIM SAILED FOR OVER **NINE CENTURIES--**

--BUT ONLY BY EVENTUALLY REPLACING EVERY LAST DECAYED BOARD WITH A STRONGER ONE, AND A STRONGER ONE **STILL**, UNTIL NO ORIGINAL BOARD EXISTED.

THE QUESTION, THEN, IS THIS: IF EVERY PIECE OF SOMETHING--SUCH AS A SYNTHEZOID BODY--HAS BEEN REPLACED OVER TIME, IS IT TRULY THE SAME OBJECT--

--OR SOMETHING NEW ALTOGETHER? I GRANT YOUR QUERY, BUT REGARDLESS OF HOW MANY OF MY--YOUR--ARTIFICIAL LIMBS AND ORGANS MAY HAVE BEEN EXCHANGED--

--YOUR **INTANGIBLES**--YOUR **BRAIN PATTERNS**--WILL FOREVER REMAIN BASED ON AN EX-AVENGER NAMED **SIMON WILLIAMS.**

WON'T THEY?

WE NEED THE AVENGERS TO **RALLY--**

EGYPT, 2948 B.C.

"...OR TIME ITSELF IS LOST."

SPIDER-SENSE SAYS INCOMING!

THERE!

HULK! BREAK WEAPON-THING!

OH, FOR GOD'S SAKE, I'M NOT STUPID!

NNNGGH!

SMASH

DON'T LET THEM FIRE IT DOWN HERE AT THE FUSION REACTOR!

WE'RE ABOUT TO BOMB THE JOINT! WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

I THOUGHT MAYBE, I DON'T KNOW, WE COULD GET EVERYBODY OUT ALIVE FIRST?

ALLOW *ME.*

I ONCE CLEANED OUT THE *AUGEAN STABLES* IN *ONE DAY...*

"...I CAN *CERTAINLY* CLEAR OUT A *PYRAMID.*"

COULDA *WARNED* ME, LEATHERPANTS.

AS I *UNDERSTAND* IT, WE *ARE* IN A BIT OF A *RUSH.*

COPY *THAT! EXIT,* EVERYBODY!

WAIT! I DIDN'T SET THE *FUSE!*

DON'T WORRY.

I'VE GOT IT!

PING!

GO!

SKRAAAK

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, IT SEEMS. THAT ERADICATES KANG'S *WEAPONS CACHE.*

THE BOMB'S ENERGIES ARE FEEDING INTO THE *TIME TETHER!* TWO MORE BLASTS LIKE *THAT--*

--AND KANG IS *TOAST!*

SO WHY IS MY SPIDER-SENSE STILL TINGLING...?

PLANET SACNIAA, 7215 A.D.

JAN, IT'S *PARALYZING* ME! HE'S STEALING OUR *FUTURE!* AND *WITHOUT* IT...

"...THERE'S NO *AVENGERS!*"

WHAT...?

...I'M *HOME...?*

JARVIS! JARVIS, THE STRANGEST THING IS *HAPPENING--!*

I SHOULD *SAY!* WHO *ARE* YOU AND HOW DID YOU GET *IN* HERE?

HOW...? THIS IS *AVENGERS MANSION!* I *BELONG* HERE!

HELLO? YES, THIS IS THE *STARK* HOME! SECURITY CODE *ALPHA-DELTA-NINE--* WE HAVE AN UNIDENTIFIED *INTRUDER!*

THORS, HOLD YOUR GROUND! THAT *ALIEN* IS MESSING WITH *TIME*-- THAT'S WHY YOU'RE *DISAPPEARING!*

NOT... *COMPLETELY!*

WE MAY BE...BUT FLESH...AND *BLOOD*...

...SUBJECT TO...THE VAGARIES OF *TIME*...

...BUT MJÖLNIR...IS *ETERNAL!*

HNNNGHH!

THWAM

...NNGH...

...THE GIANT...

...WHERE IS THE GIANT...?

REVERSING YOUR GIZMO, THAT'S WHERE!

GOD, LET ME GET THIS RIGHT...!

JAN, IS IT WORKING ON YOU? DO YOU FEEL ANYTHING?

LIKE I CAN IMAGINE A TOMORROW! WE'RE NOT THE ACID TEST, THOUGH!

THEY ARE!

SOLID?

FOR THE MOMENT! YOU FOUR CONCENTRATE ON BREAKING UP KANG'S LITTLE *TIME FARM* FOR *GOOD*--

--AND I'LL CARRY OUT THE *REST* OF THE MISSION!

ACCOMPLISHED. WE'VE SHUT DOWN THE KEY TO KANG'S FINANCIAL EMPIRE.

I WOULD STILL CARE TO KNOW HOW THOU DIDST PROCURE MINE *HAMMER*.

I BET THOU WOULDST.

NORTH AMERICA, 4022 A.D.

ANYONE HAVE A PLAN? NAMOR? SHE-HULK?

I'M WORKING ON ONE. BUT WE HAVE TO TREAD *CAREFULLY.*

THIS IS KANG BEFORE THE AVENGERS EVER MET HIM. WE HAVE TO ESCAPE, *ERADICATE* HIS ARMY, *AND* GET OFF OUR BOMB *WITHOUT* DRAWING TOO MUCH *ATTENTION*...

...OR ELSE WE CHANGE *HISTORY.*

ON YOUR *KNEES,* GIRL.

I WOULDN'T-- *COUNT* ON IT--!

FORGIVE ME AND MY LAWYER BRAIN, CAP, BUT...ISN'T THE EVIDENCE *BEFORE* US? AREN'T WE *SUPPOSED* TO TOPPLE KANG'S EMPIRE?

ISN'T CHANGING HISTORY EXACTLY WHAT WE CAME HERE *TO* DO?

NEW PLAN!

HIT *ANYTHING* AND *EVERYTHING* UNTIL IT'S *RUBBLE!*

I FEEL *VERY* SMART RIGHT NOW.

SPTANG

AWESOME.

MAYBE SOMEDAY HE'LL LET *ME* TRY THAT...

SOLDIERS! THE STRANGERS ARE MOUNTING A ***RESISTANCE!***

SEIZE THEM!

IMPERIUS REX!

I NEED A BATTLE CRY.

LISTEN TO THE WHIMPERS OF ***EVIL SOLDIERS*** AS YOU SEND THEM FLEEING IN ***TERROR!***

THAT'S "BATTLE CRY" ENOUGH FOR ***ME!***

FORGET THE ***ODDS***-- WE ***CAN*** WIN THIS ***FIGHT!***

THAT'S A ***LIE.***

MEN? ***FIRE.***

?

OF COURSE! HA!

DON'T YOU SEE? THE EGYPT TEAM WAS DISPATCHED TO ERASE THESE VERY WEAPONS SEVENTY CENTURIES AGO!

THE RESULTS TOOK A WHILE TO SURF THE TIMESTREAM-- BUT HERE THEY COME!

HNNNG!

DOESN'T MEAN WE STILL DON'T HAVE AN ARMY TO TOPPLE! WE'LL HANDLE THAT!

WASP, YOU DEAL WITH THE TIME BOMB!

AYE AYE, CAP'N!

GATHER THEM NOW?

EAGERLY.

THIS IS A VICTORY THEY HAVE WELL EARNED.

THERE HE IS, AVENGERS. KANG THE "CONQUEROR."

HULKS, IF YOU'D CARE TO DO THE HONORS...?

DEPOWERED, DESTITUTE AND READY FOR PRISON AT LONG, LONG LAST.

CHILDREN.

BELIEVING THEMSELVES TO SOMEHOW BE ***ABOVE*** DESTINY--

--RATHER THAN EPHEMERAL PAWNS WHO OUGHT TO ***RESPECT*** FATE AS ***WE*** DO.

WH-WHO...?

*YOU LED US INTO **THIS?** ALL WE DID WAS TRADE **ONE** KANG FOR **TWO!***

*HOW CAN THEY EVEN **EXIST** UNLESS, AFTER **ALL THIS**, WE **FAILED** TO CHANGE KANG'S **FUTURE?***

*THIS...CAN'T **BE!** THE SCARLET CENTURION. **IMMORTUS.** BOTH OF THEM **FUTURE IDENTITIES** OF KANG!*

AND ***EACH*** OF THEM, EVIDENTLY, ***INFINITELY*** MORE POWERFUL THAN ***WE*** ARE.

I--I DON'T ***KNOW--!*** IT ***WASN'T*** SUPPOSED TO GO ***DOWN*** THIS WAY! ***WHAT*** HAPPENS TO KANG ***AFTER*** THIS--***I JUST DON'T KNOW!***

FOOLS. BY BEARDING THE LION IN HIS *DEN*, YOU HAVE "CORNERED" US AT THE TIME AND PLACE WHERE OUR POWERS ARE AT THEIR *GREATEST!*

JAAAAAAAN!

SZAAAK

I HAD NO IDEA *HE* WAS AN INCARNATION OF--

IS THAT-- *DOOM?*

NO... NO...

THE GIANT *FLEES* IN *COWARDICE.*

WE CAN ATTEND TO HIM LATER. DESPITE HIS SIZE--

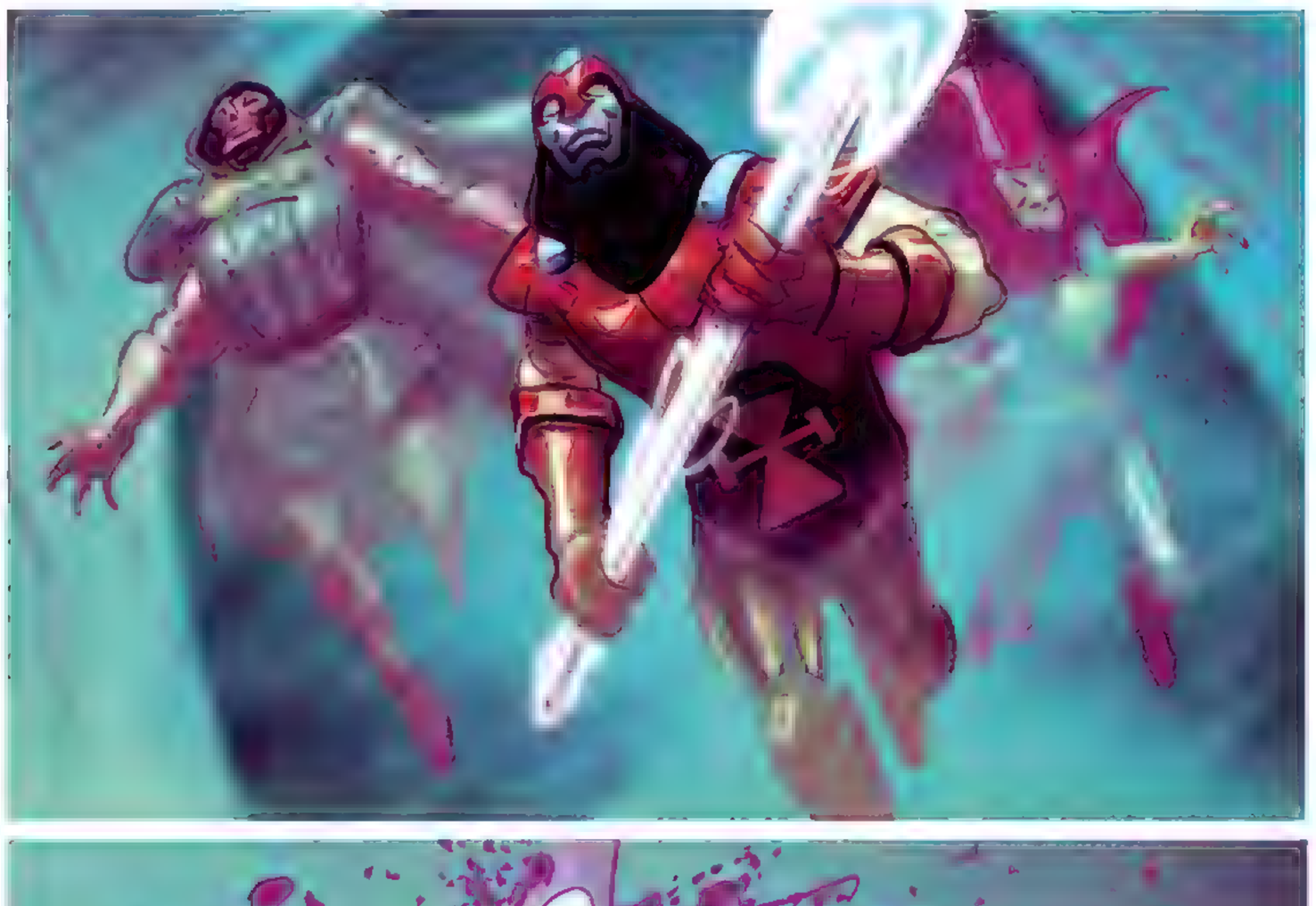
NO!

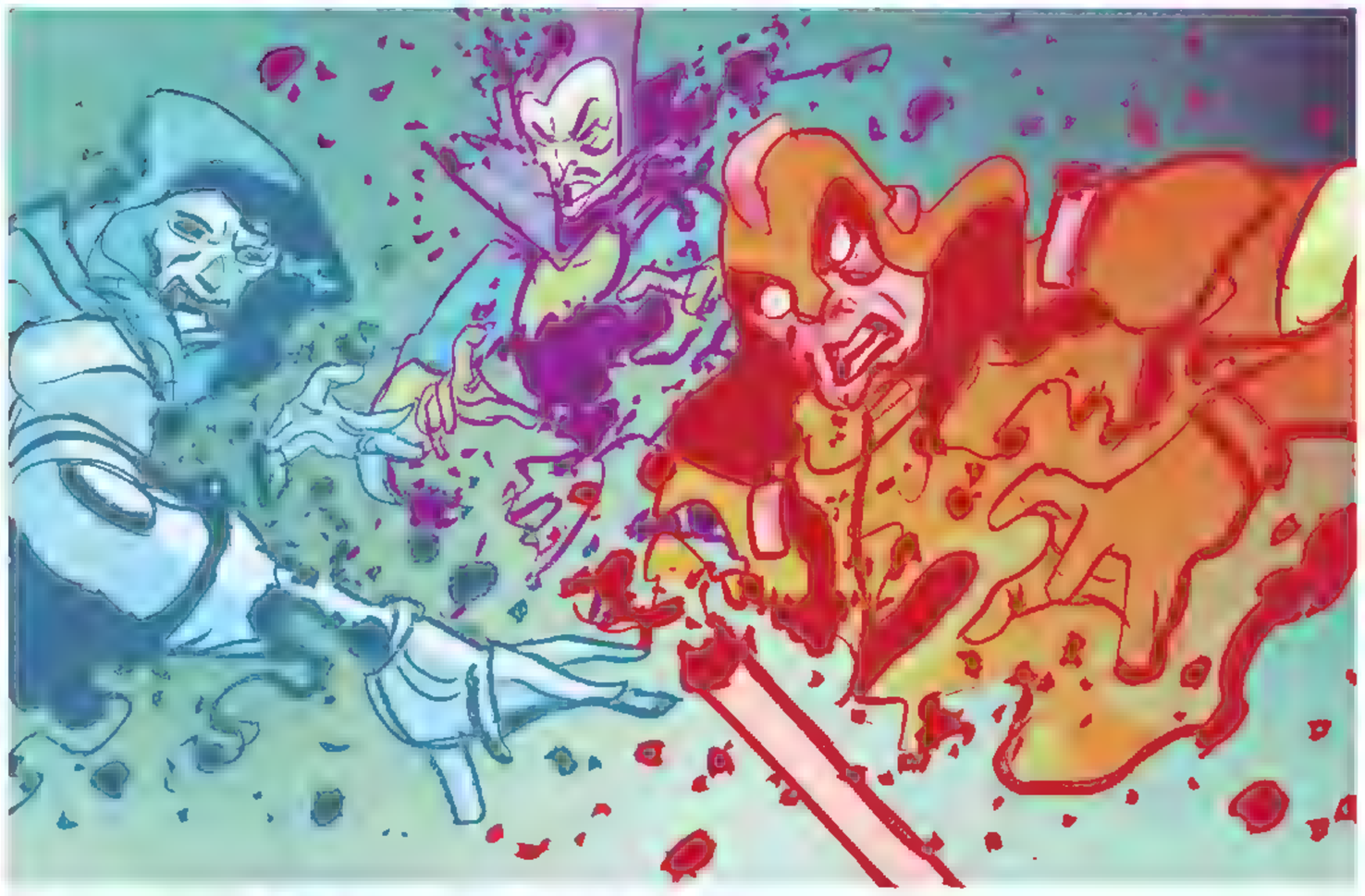
--HE IS THE LEAST *AMONG* THEM.

...FUTURE INCARNATIONS...

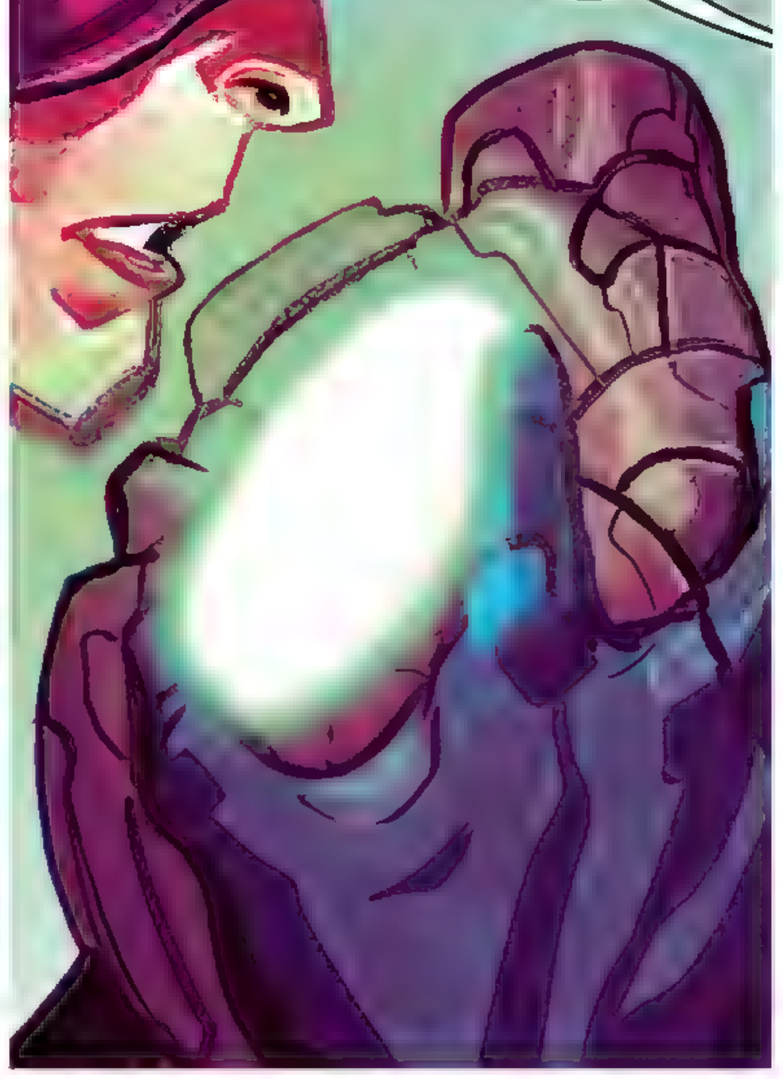
...THEY'RE ALL FUTURE INCARNATIONS...

...FUTURE...





KLIK
IT HAD TO HAVE WORKED...
...IT HAD TO HAVE WORKED...
...PLEASE, GOD, LET IT HAVE--
HANK!



YOU *DID* IT, HIGH-POCKETS! I DON'T KNOW *HOW*--

--BUT YOU *REWROTE TIME!*

YOU'RE *ALIVE...!*

AND *KICKING,* LOVER!

OOOH! THAT MACHINE FROM *SACNIAA!* HANK, YOU'RE A *GENIUS!*

EXPLAIN TO THE *BACK* OF THE CLASS...?

THIS DEVICE LITERALLY *STEALS THE FUTURE* OUT OF ANY PERSON OR OBJECT, LEAVING IT PERMANENTLY TRAPPED IN ITS CURRENT STATE. FOR *KANG,* I THREW IT INTO *OVERDRIVE--*

*--ERASING THE ACTIONS OF HIS FUTURE SELVES. YOU SAVED US **ALL,** DR. PYM.*

*A FASCINATING **APPARATUS.** IN FACT, BY BIOTELEMETRICALLY COPYING ITS **CIRCUITRY--***

*--I CAN RETURN EACH TEAM BACK TO ITS PROPER TIME WITH **NO MEMORY** OF ITS OWN FUTURE!*

YOUR TEAM REQUIRES NO SUCH MINDWIPE--UNLESS YOU, VISION, WOULD PREFER NOT TO KNOW OF ME--?

...

LEAVE THE MEMORY.

VERY WELL

WE'RE *BACK!* OH, THANK *GOD!*

BECAUSE I HAVE HAD TO *PEE* FOR *HOURS!*

DON'T LET *ME* STOP YOU FROM LEAVING A ROOM. *EVER.*

WOW. *THAT* WAS A... THING.

I APOLOGIZE, EVERYONE. IN MY MANIA TO FREE US FROM *KANG* ONCE AND FOR ALL, I BIT OFF MORE THAN WE COULD *CHEW.*

LOOKS LIKE A NET LOSS. KANG'S TIMELINE WILL ALWAYS TRUMP OUR *POWER.*

*NOT NECESSARILY, SAMUEL. REMEMBER, HIS ENTIRE FUTURE IS NOW HELD **CAPTIVE** WITHIN THE WEAPON DR. PYM USED...*

"...WHICH, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF, IS NOW IN THE MOST TRUSTWORTHY OF HANDS.

*"IT WOULD SEEM TO ME THAT NOW **ALL** OF KANG'S FUTURE IS YET TO BE DETERMINED.*

*"WE ARE AT LAST FREE OF HIS VILLAINY, AND TIME IS ONCE MORE **CALMED.** I WOULD SUGGEST WE SAVOR THE **VICTORY**...*

"...AND HOPE THERE ARE NO CONSEQUENTIAL ABERRATIONS IN THE TIMESTREAM."

37 STORIES BELOW.

HERE LIES AVENGER X BRAVEST OF US ALL

TO BE CONTINUED...

Got feedback? Send letters to MHEROES@MARVEL.COM marked "Okay to Print"!

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COMING THIS YEAR IN AVENGERS

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EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

MUST FIND THE RESOLVE TO STAND UNITED ONE FINAL TIME AGAINST THEIR GREATEST FOE!

THE AVENGERS will assemble once more: Captain America! Thor! Vision! Wasp! Spider-Man! Hercules! But when the dust settles, will any of these valiant warriors make it out alive from an all-out war with Kang the Conqueror?! And when the Vision sets out, hell-bent on revenge against Kang, all of history will be in jeopardy if the Avengers can't stop him! The Firewall of Time will be shattered – and it will fall to the Avengers to stop the dangers it held back! When war after war ends, not everything – or everyone – will be the same!

COLLECTING ***AVENGERS (2016) #1-6*** – BY MARK WAID, MIKE DEL MUNDO AND MARCO D'ALFONSO.

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